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I N S I D E

LOCAL



The Saipan Leadership Memorial Kiosku will be unveiled tomorrow.

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WORLD



Europe's fragile financial calm is shattered by violent protests.

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LIFE & STYLE



A 6-year-old girl who called self 'Mrs. Bieber' dies of brain cancer.

➤ PAGE 24

2 DAYS TO GO BEFORE BUDGET DEADLINE

Fitial issues shutdown memo

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With still no budget bill reaching his desk ahead of Sunday's deadline, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he's left with no choice but to issue a preparatory government shutdown memo identifying exempted "essential" positions even as the legislative budget panel labored through last night to come up with a compromise \$114-million spending package for legislative action.

See FITIAL on Page 4

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated-center, joins advocates and supporters for a group photo during Wednesday's signing of a proclamation declaring October 2012 "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FOR THOSE WITH PENDING CW PETITIONS

No automatic extension of parole

» Over 5,000 remain without CW permits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over 5,000 foreign workers remain without a transitional Commonwealth-only worker permits, and there are currently no automatic extensions of their parole in place, many of them expiring on Sunday.

The Fitial administration and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, meanwhile, are pushing for a five-year extension of the transitional worker program beyond Dec. 31, 2014, citing the need to still have access to skilled foreign labor to help run the local economy. Some worker groups do not support an extension, urging the federal government instead to grant improved immigration status to long-term, legal foreign workers in

See PAROLE on Page 4

Democratic Party endorses Kilili



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Democratic Party of the NMI endorsed yesterday the re-election of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) to the U.S. Congress "so that he can continue his exceptional work," even as the delegate and his supporters raised concerns once again about alleged vote-buying and other elec-

tion law violations that they hope federal and local agencies will look into.

Sablan also got the endorsement of the Covenant Party in March and the so-called "Independent Republicans" in April.

His only opponent in the Nov. 6 delegate race is Dr. Ignacia Demapan of the Republican Party, which is chaired by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Democratic Party of the NMI chair Edward Manibusan and members of

See KILILI on Page 4



TRO stops Farrell from serving as gaming commish

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued yesterday a temporary restraining order that stops Don A. Farrell from performing as commissioner of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

Camacho ruled that plaintiffs



Farrell

Raynaldo M. Cing and Patrick A. Manglona were able to justify the need for a TRO in their motion filed by attorney Ramon K. Quichocho.

Cing is a former Commonwealth Ports Authority board member while Manglona is a member of the 13th Tinian Municipal Council.

The TRO will be in effect

until the Oct. 11, 2012, hearing on the plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction. The judge did not require Cing and Manglona to post a bond for the TRO.

Attorney Sean Frink, who made a limited appearance on behalf of Farrell, declined to comment on the matter.

The TRO bars Farrell from performing any duties or obligations as gaming commissioner and prohibits the defendant

See TRO on Page 4

CPUC urged to reduce PSS water, wastewater rates. PAGE 5
'Saipan's barrier reefs cannot stop a tsunami' PAGE 6

Local

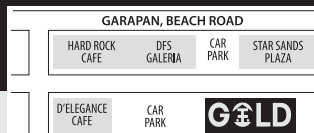
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CLARISSA V. DAVID

11th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council's Ramon B. Camacho, second right, and Eric Diaz, right, join contractors and proponents of the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kiosku project for a last-minute inspection at the project site in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon.

All set for unveiling of Leadership Memorial Kiosku in Chalan Kanoa

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of past and present island leaders and their families are expected to attend tomorrow's ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially unveil the Saipan Leadership Memorial Kiosku to the community.

Project proponents and workers were at the memorial courtyard in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon for a last-minute polishing and inspection of the *kiosku*.

The project, which has a price tag of over \$551,000, features a roundhouse, memorial plaque, flagpoles, and a gift shop.

The roundhouse was built to honor 354 appointed and elected officials from Saipan and the Northern Islands during the Naval, Trust Territory, and Commonwealth governments. It was funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant, which is administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

While the project was envisioned by the 10th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, it was the efforts by the 11th council that brought the memorial courtyard to fruition in a historical area that was once the center of social and political activities on the island.

Council chair Ramon B. Camacho said in an interview that the *kiosku* project is the first of its kind to recognize local leaders who played pivotal roles in the advancement of Saipan and the Northern Islands. The islands of Tinian and Rota also have courtyards paying tribute to their own leaders.

"A lot of families of the honorees were touched by this project because some of the honorees have passed away yet

their legacy continues to remain through the memorial courtyard," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said the logistics for Saturday's ceremony has been arranged in anticipation of the crowd that is likely to double or triple if family members of honorees are taken into consideration.

Given the limited space at the courtyard, honorees and their guests were instructed to park their vehicles in either of the two designated locations: the Mount Carmel Cathedral and the Hopwood Jr. High School.

There will be one shuttle bus at each location to transport guests to the memorial courtyard to witness the program. Vehicles of honorees and guests with disabilities will be allowed in the courtyard but only for loading and unloading.

"We have already communicated with police officers to control the traffic in the area this Saturday," Camacho said.

Tomorrow's program will also feature the unveiling of the temporary banner bearing the names of the honorees since the pre-fabricated granite where the names are etched will be completed four months from now.

Camacho disclosed that the council is working with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to have the courtyard placed under the federal registry, protecting it from those who will tamper or vandalize any part of its structure.

Camacho noted, too, that they have yet to finalize the hours of operation for the courtyard. He said the fiscal year 2013 budget would dictate if they can hire full-time employees to man the *kiosku* but they're also looking at federal grants to help maintain the place.

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DPL urged not to hide records

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite numerous attempts to obtain information about public lands, the Marianas Public Land Trust remains unsuccessful due to what it described as continuing non-cooperation of the Department of Public Lands.

MPLT board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*, however, that the agency will not give up on this matter because it remains firm in its

intention to collect from the Department of Public Land \$5 million to \$7 million in unremitted land leases.

MPLT has been requesting financial data from DPL to determining how much the government truly generated from public land leases over the years. MPLT wants access to documents like actual lease agreements, permit agreements, and agricultural grazing permits.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed

that a meeting took place between two agencies after the appointment of acting DPL secretary Pedro Itibus this year. From there, MPLT was assured of full cooperation by the new DPL leadership.

"[But] to our disappointment, we have not gotten any cooperation from them. We were made to wait for the audit report [of DPL] but we believe that most of the information that we need can be provided [to us]," said Deleon Guerrero.

Yesterday, MPLT trustees spent a few hours in executive session to discuss the DPL issue, among other subjects.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that a new letter for the DPL secretary will be transmitted to the agency to reiterate their need for information.

See DPL on Next Page

Wiseman reinstates terminated DYS staff

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered the immediate reinstatement of a juvenile corrections worker who had sued Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao for her alleged unlawful termination.

Wiseman granted Thelma S. Kapileo's motion to suspend DCCA's action against her and denied a motion filed by Fitial and Faisao to remand the case to the Civil Service Commission.

Although granting a stay pending judicial review is something that is only done in extraordinary circumstances where irreparable injury is clearly apparent, Wiseman believes that Kapileo has satisfied her burden.

"The court finds [Kapileo] and her family will suffer irreparable injury from her lack of income if a stay is not issued," the judge said.

Kapileo filed the lawsuit through counsels Jane Mack and Dimitri Varmazis of the Micronesian Legal Services Corp.

The plaintiff sued the defendants for unlawful suspension and termination, violation of employment contract, and vio-

lation of U.S. constitutional due process protections.

Kapileo asked the court to set aside her suspension and termination and declare DCCA's action as unlawful.

She demanded reinstatement with full backpay and payment for damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Kapileo received the notice of her termination on Oct. 5, 2011. Faisao said that Kapileo failed to perform her duties and responsibilities as an Emergency Shelter caretaker.

On at least one occasion, Faisao said, a female detainee was sexually assaulted by Pedro I. Sablan, an Emergency Shelter caretaker, while on Kapileo's watch

"Your action have resulted in serious violations of not only the Standards of Conduct and is clearly a dereliction of duty," Faisao said.

In his order on Wednesday
See WISEMAN on Next Page

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KILILI

From Page 1

the party's Central Executive Committee—businessman and former lawmaker Juan “Pan” Guerrero and former Division of Environmental Quality director Juan Castro—endorsed Sablan during a news briefing yesterday morning.

Sablan said he's grateful for and humbly accepts the Democratic Party's endorsement.

Manibusan, a former judge, spoke of Sablan's effective representation of the CNMI in Congress, his commitment to put the CNMI people first, and his sharing of the values of the Democratic Party in the U.S. and in the CNMI. He said the relationships that Sablan has built in Congress paved the way for the recent admission of the Democrat-

ic Party of the NMI into the national Democratic Party.

Sablan remains an independent, but he caucuses with the Democrats in Congress.

Manibusan also said he was impressed by the depth of commitment given to Sablan by DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz, DNC vice chair Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, and by members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

“He has during his term helped the Northern Marianas achieve full inclusion in America's government and political processes,” Manibusan said.

The former judge said the Democratic Party of the NMI “fully endorses Congressman Sablan so that he can continue his exceptional work with other members of Congress in bringing prosperity to the people of the Northern

Marianas.”

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, chairman of Kilili for Congress, said yesterday that Sablan's endorsement by the Democratic Party, the Covenant Party, and the so-called Independent Republicans “speaks volume to his ability to reach across the island, work with different people of different parties and different backgrounds.”

“That's what we really need right now because one voice is so precious. We can't squander that voice into something that will be a partisan voice. Earlier, he mentioned he's good friends with libertarians in Congress, with Republicans in Congress, with Democrats in Congress and here locally, with the Covenant Party. I think today's endorsement from the local Democratic Party again speaks volume to his ability to make that one voice matter and make that one voice

truly representative of everyone in the CNMI,” Deleon Guerrero said.

Juan “Pan” Guerrero, for his part, said Sablan is “the kind of person that

we need in the U.S. Congress,” referring to Sablan's productivity and the relationships he has established in Congress to help the CNMI.

PAROLE

From Page 1

the CNMI.

A total of 7,128 foreign workers have so far been granted CW permits as of Sept. 25, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said yesterday.

This is 58 percent of the 12,311 workers petitioned since Oct. 7, 2011.

However, the remaining 5,183 that are still without CW permit include those petitions still awaiting response from the employer or those who have yet to respond to “requests for evidence.”

USCIS regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts said yesterday that “extension requests should be mailed to the Guam Field office where USCIS will extend the Parole in Place.”

Sebrechts said requests can also be dropped off at the USCIS office on Saipan and they will be forwarded to Guam.

There is no filing fee to obtain parole in this situation, she said.

Latest statistics

A 79-year-old vice president of a private company said yesterday he has yet to be granted a CW permit, but added that he is not worried about not being granted one eventually.

He said he was petitioned for a CW permit in November 2011 and he just recently had his biometrics appointment.

Another employee said yesterday that just like many others in her company, she was petitioned for a CW status in November 2011 but has yet to receive a CW permit.

“I had my biometrics in March 2012. I am still waiting for my CW permit,” the 56-year-old insurance underwriter told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

They are just two of the 5,183 for-

eign workers still without CW permits. From Oct. 7, 2011 through Sept. 25, USCIS California Service Center had data entered 6,037 I-129CW petitions, Sebrechts said.

These petitions were filed by approximately 1,847 different employers. A total of 12,311 CW-1 workers are sponsored on these petitions.

Sebrechts said a total of 4,180 petitions were approved consisting of 7,128 beneficiaries.

She also said a total of 268 petitions were denied, consisting of 362 beneficiaries.

The denials were a result of withdrawals by the employers; absence of evidence that the petitioner (employer) meets one of the eligibility requirements; absence of evidence that the beneficiary (worker) was lawfully present in the CNMI at the time of filing; and abandonment by employer.

“More than half of those pending—approximately 800—are awaiting response from employers,” she said.

These numbers, however, are not static as USCIS continues to receive new petitions. In February, for example, USCIS had about 5,000 I-129CW petitions.

Extension of parole in place

In late-January, USCIS announced it will “automatically” extend parole to individuals in the CNMI who have a parole expiring on Jan. 31, 2012, a parole filed in October or later, and those with pending I-129 and I-129CW application.

Those covered at the time were not required to apply for an extension of their parole. A number of them were extended up to Sept. 30, 2012.

But because others remain without CW permit, they need to apply for an extension this time around.

Sebrechts said the application requirements are the same for extending parole in place.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Even if the House and Senate pass a budget bill in the nick of time, the spending measure could still face veto if the administration finds it unworkable and not balanced.

“Once again, despite hopes that this memorandum could be avoided, for the second time a possible shutdown is looming,” Fitial said in a five-page memo sent out late Wednesday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday this is a “preparatory” memo to government offices.

“Ultimately, in the event of a shutdown, the governor's executive order will be the governing document for the shutdown period,” Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Constitution requires a government shutdown if no new budget is in place by the beginning of each fiscal year, which is Oct. 1. Only those positions delivering essential services related to health, safety and welfare will remain functioning. These include doctors, nurses, police officers, corrections officers, firefighters, and utility crews.

Fitial also exempted from the shutdown the Public School System, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Northern Marianas College.

The governor's memo is addressed

to the Judiciary, the Legislature, mayors, municipal councils, NMC, PSS, autonomous agencies, departments, and agencies.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said more than 1,500 government workers will have to stop working starting Monday and until a balanced budget is in place.

He earlier said the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be exempted because it is now a corporation.

Some of the affected employees on Capital Hill expressed disappointment yesterday with lawmakers for not working together “earlier” or “months ago” to avoid creating anxiety at a time when they are already dealing with work hour cuts.

“It's still politics. A lot of families will suffer if there's a shutdown,” one said.

As of 8:30pm last night, the conference committee led by House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) were still locked inside the House chamber trying to “balance” a \$114-million budget.

As of yesterday, conferees were working on a budget that gives lesser funding to priority agencies they earlier identified such as PSS, NMC, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., chops down funding for some departments, and calls for an across-the-board cut of 1.477 percent. This is lower than the previous rates of 5 percent and 8 percent.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) moved yesterday's 1pm Senate session to 7pm in anticipation of a budget bill from the conference committee, to no avail.

Manglona, in an interview, said he instructed the Senate conferees “to not come out of the room until there's a budget bill” that the Senate can act on “even if it's late Thursday night or midnight or early morning.”

“We no longer have the luxury of time. We're not going home until we have a budget passed,” Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona said the governor's memo is a “standard precautionary measure.”

Basa and Taimanao said the biggest problem is “balancing” the budget.

‘Disappointments’

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said last night that House members remain on standby, just in case the speaker calls a session to act on a budget.

“Am I a bit disappointed? Yes. Surprised? No. We had a lot of time to work on this. I'm not sure where's the holdup,” he said in a phone interview.

The last time the government shut down due to the lack of a budget was in October 2010. It lasted some 10 days.

In 2011, then acting governor Eloy Inos was able to sign into law a budget bill by Sept. 26, his birthday, although he pointed out several problems in that spending package.

“In addition they have alleged that such an appointment will erode the integrity of the Gaming Commission and thereby affect the potential for investors necessary to sustain the suffering Tinian economy,” Camacho said.

Moreover, the judge said, several of the claims are grounded in constitutional principles designed to hold public officials accountable.

In their lawsuit, the plaintiffs asked the court to declare the appointment and confirmation of Farrell as illegal and unethical, and therefore null and void.

The plaintiffs also asked the court to declare that Mayor Dela Cruz violated the Government Ethics Code Act when he appointed his brother-in-law Farrell to serve as a commissioner on the Gaming Commission.

Quichocho said Cabrera and Cruz failed to exercise due diligence before confirmation since Farrell is “of questionable moral character.”

Mayor Dela Cruz appointed Farrell on Sept. 4, 2012, for a full six-year term as gaming commissioner.

eral to decide whether Farrell and co-defendants are entitled to government counsel.

Frink said that Farrell did not receive a notice of the order setting the hearing.

Quichocho said he understands that Farrell and co-defendants need more time to retain counsel, but that his clients are definitely asking for TRO. He said there are serious things that are going on that they need for the court to make a ruling.

After listening to the arguments, Camacho granted the plaintiffs' request for TRO and set the preliminary injunction hearing for Oct. 11.

In a written order yesterday afternoon, Camacho said the TRO is based on asserted immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage to plaintiffs absent a TRO.

Specifically, the judge said the plaintiffs claim that the people of Tinian and their health, safety, and well-being or integrity will be compromised because the meager economic resources of the Tinian people would be used to fund Farrell's “illegal and unethical appointment.”

TRO

From Page 1

and their agents from further appointing and confirming any gaming commissioner.

Cing and Manglona are suing Farrell, Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Tinian Department of Public Works deputy director and 13th Tinian Municipal Council member Estevan P. Cabrera, and Tinian Department of Lands and Natural Resources deputy director and 13th Tinian Municipal Council member Joseph SN. Cruz.

Cing is suing Dela Cruz, Cabrera, and Cruz for illegal expenditure of public funds and breach of fiduciary duty.

Cing and Manglona are suing Mayor Dela Cruz for breach of trust.

Farrell and Cabrera watched the proceeding at the Superior Court but did not issue any statement.

Frink said he does not understand the rush in holding the hearing. He asked the court to continue the hearing to allow the Office of the Attorney Gen-

growth. MPLT questions the calculations made by DPL on the remittances. DPL was also accused of violating the mandates of the law regarding the yearly remittance to the trust. These accusations have been repeatedly denied by previous DPL leadership, which also denied assertions that it is in possession of several million dollars that should be remitted to MPLT.

MPLT is the agency tasked to manage the revenues collected by government in public land leases. These revenues must be remitted to the Trust for investment.

for backpay or money damages in lieu of the number of unpaid judgments that currently exist against the CNMI government,” the judge noted.

Wiseman said that remanding Kapileo's case to the Civil Service Commission is not appropriate since the commission has already declared that Kapileo has exhausted her administrative remedies and it took the CSC five months for them to make that declaration.

Wiseman said that CSC is essentially non-operating and lacks a quorum. “[Remanding the case to CSC] would be an exercise in futility and would constitute a deprivation of petitioner's due process rights,” he said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

DPL

From Page 3

Early this year, MPLT warned DPL of a potential lawsuit if the latter will continue with its uncooperative stance.

Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that MPLT “doesn't want to get into that [option] at this time” as they will try again to work with DPL under Itibus' leadership.

DPL was earlier urged by the MPLT trustees to make the necessary remittance to the trust for its investment

WISEMAN

From Page 3

day, Wiseman found that Kapileo has shown a probability of success on the merits because she was not provided with a hearing prior to being terminated, and there was no relief available to her as a Civil Service employee.

Another factor that Wiseman considered is the government's “poor record of satisfying its judgments.”

“For example, if petitioner were to succeed with her judicial review claim and obtain a judgment against the government, it would be extremely difficult for her to try to collect an award

CPUC urged to reduce PSS water, wastewater rates

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is appealing to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to reduce its water and wastewater rates and asked that the system be granted a waiver on the payment of late fees.

PSS acting finance director George Palican made the appeal to the new commission at a recent meeting on Capital Hill.

Palican said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water rate for public schools is 10 times more than what is being charged businesses, while its wastewater rate is 20 times that of the commercial rate.

CUC pointed out, however, that PSS' water rates have already been cut since February this year.

Palican told *Saipan Tribune* that PSS is seeking the commission's consideration on the matter because it is experiencing severe financial challenges. He said PSS has only \$2 million to pay for operations and all others, including utilities. The rest of the \$30-million budget is for personnel salaries.

As of the August billing cy-

cle, PSS owed CUC \$3.6 million, including for power.

At the CPUC meeting, Palican also asked the commission to grant PSS a waiver for late charges, which he said cost the system over \$10,000 in additional obligation every month.

As of Sept. 10, PSS had a huge deficit of \$8 million—\$3.5 million for personnel cost and \$4.5 million for operation, mostly due to the high cost of utilities.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren told *Saipan Tribune* that PSS, at the commission's January meeting, was already granted an 18.4-percent reduction in its water rates.

Warren pointed out that any rate cuts for its customers, such as PSS, will be recovered in other areas through rate increases.

"PSS petitioned the CPUC at the last session and was granted an 18.4-percent reduction in their water rate. CUC supported them in the petition, and I see no reason why CUC would not support PSS in future petitions to reduce the rate they are charged for water and wastewater, with the caveat being that any reduction in rates for PSS will have to

be recovered in rate increases somewhere else," Warren said.

It was learned that PSS' January petition was only for a water rate cut, which was approved in February this year.

Based on consumption this fiscal year, the new water rate should save PSS from \$10,000 to \$12,000 per month, Warren said.

As for the waiver request, Warren said their regulations require late charges to be assessed all customers. "CUC regulations provide for late charges for all customers. PSS would not be incurring late charges if they were current with payments."

CPUC is the regulating agency for the island's utilities.

Zoning planner seeks to correct misconceptions about zoning

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The recently hired zoning planner at the Saipan Zoning Office emphasized the need for sound zoning regulations and policies as they promote environmental protection while advancing sustainable economic development.

Maryann Borja-Arriola said yesterday that many people are under the impression that zoning is negative for the community when in fact it's the opposite, and this affirmative perception can only be achieved if the public becomes well-informed.



Borja-Arriola

Borja-Arriola earned her associate degree from the Northern Marianas College and majored in business administration at Argosy University in Hawaii. She is looking forward to finishing soon her master's in Management from Kaplan University.

Almost two months after being hired and Borja-Arriola still finds herself in the process of transitioning to her new role, working hard to familiarize herself with the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 and subsequent amendments proposed by the Zoning Office to the Legislature, among other responsibilities.

She is also tasked to review conditional and major site development plan applications and to work with other agencies as part of a focus group dealing with climate change in the Northern Marianas.

Borja-Arriola said she is also committed to finding alternative sources of funding that would allow the Zoning Office to implement and enhance ongoing and future zoning programs.

Part of Borja-Arriola's strategic plan for the Zoning Office is to be at the helm of public outreach efforts such as conducting presentations and village meetings, to raise awareness of the importance of zoning.

"It's easy to go by a misconception," she said. "But in everything, it's always good to weigh if it's conducive or not. Zoning and controlled land use are important for our island."

Borja-Arriola officially joined the Zoning Office on July 30, replacing Therese T. Ogomoro who was named administrator.

Prior to her new post, Borja-Arriola worked for two years as counselor at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation where she advanced the rights of people with disabilities.

"When they announced the vacancy for a planner, I decided to step up the ladder," she said.



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'Saipan's barrier reefs cannot stop a tsunami'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's barrier reefs cannot stop a tsunami from hitting the island, according to Brian Yanagi, deputy director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's International Tsunami Center in Hawaii.

In an interview yesterday,

Yanagi said the myth about barrier reefs stopping a tsunami in its tracks is one he wants to dispel.

"Your barrier reefs can mitigate some of the energy but [they] will not stop a tsunami," he said.

Yanagi is one of four lecturers



Miller

in the two-day CNMI Tsunami Awareness Course initiated by the Emergency Management Office that kicked off yesterday at Kanoa Resort Saipan's Seaside Hall.

The other lecturers are NOAA National Weather Service in Guam meteorologist

in-charge Genevieve Miller, Hawaii State Civil Defense's earthquake/tsunami program planner Kevin Richards, and Hawaii State Civil Defense natural hazards planner Danny Tengan.

Yanagi said this workshop is for the private sector, police, fire, Emergency Management Office, and first responders to become fully aware of the po-

tential impacts from a Marianas Trench earthquake and tsunami, which could strike Saipan in 10 to 20 minutes.

"If you feel the ground shake strongly and it's difficult to stand up and you are along a coastline, you need to head immediately to higher ground or climb a reinforced concrete structure, get up to the roof, because a tsunami can come within minutes after the ground shaking," he said.

Yanagi said people should not wait to be told what to do and instead save themselves.

He said people should work as a team with government agencies to effectively respond to not only a local tsunami but one that comes from Japan, the Philippines, and even Alaska and Chile.

Yanagi said the CNMI and Guam have a history of tsunami

that goes back to 1700, in which some of them were destructive and others were small.

Miller, who discussed tsunami hazards assessment and warnings, said that people need to be educated on how to recognize the warning signs that a tsunami might be occurring. People should understand where the official sources of information are coming from and how to react to it, she added.

The workshop is funded by the National Tsunami Hazardous Mitigation Program.

EMO director Jack Omar said the two-day workshop is focused on the private sector since a lot of government agencies have already participated in this type of training in the past. "We want to prepare for the destructive tsunamis," he said.

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SSHS students to volunteer at CLI

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Center for Living Independently-CNMI expects to host Saipan Southern High School students who have chosen the center as their venue for their community service starting next month.

Executive director Lydia D. Igitol said that between 15 to 20 students will spend one and a half hours on Fridays at the center on Capital Hill.

Igitol said the students will work with and get to know better the center's consumers and volunteers throughout the duration of the community service.

She said this type of program began about three years ago but was never actively pursued by the center.

According to Igitol, having students spend time at the center helps raise awareness about the center and people with disabilities in general.

Igitol said the program also helps their consumers at the

center as it provides them with the opportunity to interact with community members who can encourage them to do what others can.

With several students from SSHS expected at the center this school year, Igitol expressed optimism that they would be able to promote the center as a venue for community service for the students.

Igitol said they would also like to extend the program to their consumers on Rota.

CLI-CNMI is a non-profit group run by and for persons with disabilities with the mission to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live independently and fully integrated in the community by providing them with a comprehensive range of services that include information and referral, independent living skills training, peer counseling, transportation, and individual and system advocacy.

To volunteer or for more information, call at 322-4304 or 03.

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MPLT: Release of \$7M loan depends on passage of sin tax bill

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust will only release the \$7-million line of credit it had approved for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. once the sin tax bill is passed, according to MPLT board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero yesterday.

He said the bill would help the corporation meet its payment obligation but as to when and if this will happen, it will all be up to the Legislature.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that bill is still being finalized and is expected to be endorsed soon by vice speaker Felicidad Ogomoro (Cov-Saipan).

Sin taxes are being proposed to be levied on commodities deemed dangerous to health such as alcohol, cigarettes, and food that promotes non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, obesity, and high blood pressure, among others.

It's been several months since the enactment of the bill that allows the \$7-million line of credit for CHC but no single cent has been released yet—not without a measure that would bolster the paying ability of the corporation.

Despite these delays, Deleon Guerrero said the \$7 million is not and will never be a "dead issue" for the MPLT.

"It's still pending, it's never

a dead issue. MPLT has always been and still willing to help CHC. We drafted the sin tax bill to dedicate those taxes to the hospital for them to meet their payment obligation if and when we release the \$7 million. We've been working with the administration and the Finance secretary and I believe vice speaker Ogomoro is ready at anytime to introduce this legislation," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* during a break in yesterday's meeting.

He said they were made aware that both the Senate and House will entertain the bill.

Details as to what commodities will be taxed and the percentage of tax to be levied on these items are being reviewed at this time.

Deleon Guerrero admitted that because the process is still at the initial stage, MPLT cannot immediately say how soon the bill will be signed.

"Once it becomes law and it shows those revenues for CHC...we will go ahead and help the hospital as we committed," he added.

Corporation board chair Joaquin Torres said yesterday that CHC fully supports the legislation and vowed to push for its immediate passage so they can drawdown the MPLT dollars. He said the sin tax idea will serve a dual purpose: assist the public hospital in its immedi-

ate needs while preventing the spread of non-communicable diseases caused by alcohol and cigarettes.

Torres described the hospital's daily operation as an ongoing challenge—without enough collection and revenue, payroll and obligation to vendors will not be met. The corporation was only allocated \$5 million for its personnel and operation this fiscal year. It has over 400 employees and serves the public 24 hours.

Besides the \$7-million line of credit, MPLT has already loaned out \$3 million to the public hospital early this year. The amount is assigned a 7-percent interest rate, payable until March 2013. To date, only the loan's interest is being paid by the corporation.



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Shen is new ASNMC president

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Chenglong "Alex" Shen, a liberal arts student at the Northern Marianas College, is the new president of the Associated Students of NMC.

Based on the official result of the two-day election, Shen received the most number of votes over two other contenders who previously served the position.

Shen defeated former ASNMC presidents Lawrence Camacho and Antonio Tipples in a three-way race that saw the participation of over 300 voters.

As ASNMC president, Shen will be an honorary member of the Board of Regents, the policymaking body of NMC. He replaces Camacho.

The election drew only 323 votes—a small portion of the college's nearly 1,300 enrollees this fall semester.

Six other students were elected in this week's polls for the new set of officers for academic year 2012-2013.

Richard Pizarro, who ran unopposed, is the new vice president. Pizarro is taking computer applications and business management programs at the college.

The council's new treasurer is Anne Julia Padilla, a business program major who won over liberal arts students Faithful Mendiola and Evert Van Der Maas. Jolly Ann Cruz from the elementary education program bested Christina Shaunte Tudela from the natural resources management program for the secretary position.

This year's council senators are Jae Hee Kim, from the elementary education program; Daniel Isaac Brown, from the rehabilitation human services program; and Evert Van Der Maas, from the liberal arts program.



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Arctic Circle holds shareholder meeting today

Arctic Circle Air, which hopes to jumpstart the local agriculture industry by "bridging" Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, will be holding a stockholders' meeting today, Sept 28, 2012, at 5:30pm, at the company's offices at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Located at the old U.S. Census building, the office has an Arctic Circle sign above the door.

All stockholders of record are welcome to attend the meeting to discuss business matters and inspect the newly arrived Britten-Norman BN-2T Islander and facility.

Company president and board chair Tony Pellegrino will preside over the meeting with the introduction of key staff members, including

the chief pilot and director of maintenance.

Managers will detail operational plans and business requirements now that the aircraft has arrived.

The company's tentative schedule to start flight operations is on Oct 15, 2012.

The company will start contracting with farmers to provide produce for sales to Guam. Farms will be paid upon the delivery of produce at the company's receiving facility in Lower Base—the old SMI garment factory next to Saipan Ice and Water. Product will be inspected, weighed and farmers paid upon delivery. All products will be exported to Guam.

Arctic Circle Air operates under a dba of Marianas Har-

vest in developing a brand name for products grown on all the islands. The plane's cargo capacity is 2,500 lbs per flight. Over the next two to four months, Marianas Harvest has the potential of purchasing on a weekly basis 15,000 to 20,000 lbs of fruits and vegetables.

"The airline's success depends on farmers willing to grow and sell more agricultural crops. The CNMI has potential of being Guam's bread basket for fresh agricultural products," according to a company statement.

Future plans include expansion to fishing and pork product. Marianas Meat Harvest has opened and is the only USDA-approved slaughterhouse in the Western Pacific. Fresh, never

frozen pork will be available for sale to Guam and other islands. Marianas Meat Harvest needs more hogs and is asking local ranchers to increase their herds. Arctic Circle Air will handle sales, transportation, and distribution in Guam.

After the presentation, questions and open discussions will be held.

The meeting is open to potential investors. Shares are being sold at \$1 per share and is open to all residents of the Northern Mariana Islands. The company already has investors on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The company desires to have the community invest in Arctic Circle Air to ensure its success. Contact Pellegrino at tonypell@pticom.com. (*Arctic Circle*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 28, 2000

Mayor wants Rota included in new carrier's route

Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona is asking Australian carrier Micronesia Air to include the island in its flight schedule when it starts providing direct air transport service between Sydney and the Northern Marianas. "As you make application for route licenses, please be sure to put Rota in your route. Service Rota as well as Saipan and other CNMI islands. Rota waits with open and enthusiastic arms to embrace your new service," said the mayor in a letter to Micronesia Air executive Rex Banks. Mr. Manglona said Rota's new airport terminal is one of the most attractive and most modern in the Northern Marianas, adding that plans are already underway to improve the facility's runway.

Teno leads campaign against breast cancer

Noting that CNMI women are at risk, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed proclamation declaring October as "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" on the islands. This is in conjunction with a nationwide campaign aimed at educating women about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. This year marks 15 years of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Because of the campaign, mammography use has substantially increased and breast cancer death rates have declined over the past few years, according to officials. To kick off the campaign in the Commonwealth, a walkathon will be held this Saturday, Sept. 30, from 6 to 10 a.m. starting at Kili Beach.

Sept. 28, 2001

\$27M in revenue shortfall feared

Best estimates made by the Department of Finance on the money it expects to collect in Fiscal Year 2002 place the expected revenue amount at only \$206 million-\$27 million short of the \$233 million the government had originally submitted as its budget for the incoming fiscal year. "I met with the finance department just yesterday and it appears that we might only be able to make \$206 million [in the new fiscal year]," Gov. Pedro P. Tendorio told reporters yesterday morning. This came even as the Senate was deliberating on the proposed \$233-million Fiscal Year 2002 budget at the Northern Marianas College on Tinian. Expectations were high that the Senate would pass the bill yesterday.

OPA allowed to retain alien workers

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed into law the bill that would allow the Office of the Public Auditor to retain the services of nonresident workers beyond the period allowed for it under Public Law 10-4. House Bill 12-376, to be known hence as Public Law 12-65 or the Commonwealth Auditing Amendments Act of 2001, would also allow the OPA to hire 10 new interns and, at the same time, lift the cap on the salaries of non-U.S. certified public accountants. Tenorio said that Public Law 10-4 was originally intended for government agencies employing nonresident workers to implement a management intern program that would train locals who will eventually replace the nonresident employees.

Sept. 28, 2002

SCC backs retiree investment law

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has reiterated its support to the measure that seeks to make the CNMI the preferred choice for foreign retirement investment security, saying it gave the same support to a similar bill during the 11th Legislature. The Chamber restated its position regarding Public Law 11-60, in response to House Committee on U.S. and Foreign Affairs Chairman William S. Torres' comments that the private sector and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, in particular, "have yet to develop any real initiative on, and to push for, the promotion of the CNMI as an investment destination of choice vis-à-vis PL 11-60."

Legislature's help sought for port expansion

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seeking the assistance of the Legislature in connection with its request to get a piece of public land needed for the expansion of the Saipan Harbor. CPA officials led by Executive Director Carlos H. Salas and Board Chair Jose R. Lifofoi met with several members of the CNMI House of Representatives Wednesday to discuss the importance of the property located between the U.S. Army Reserve compound and the Kaiser Cement Building in Lower Base. Salas explained that, with the negotiation with CSX Lines moving fast, the CPA is bent at moving forward in the procurement of the public land for its expansion project needed for additional container yard.

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7:00am-8:00am	Registration/Walk
8:00am-8:30am	Opening Remarks
8:30am-9:00am	Get Fit CNMI
9:00am-9:40am	Testimonials Let's Move and Cancer Survivor Kids
9:40am-10:00am	DJ/Surprise Performance
10:00am-11:00am	Donation of Hair
11:00am-11:03am	Boxercise
11:30am-12:00pm	Zumba
12:00pm	Closing Remarks

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3. Boxercise
4. Get Fit CNMI
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6. Jump Rope
7. Obstacle Course
8. Carolinian Mass
9. Frisbee

Exhibitors

1. NMC-CREES
2. NMC-CACG
3. PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB
4. CNMI-WIC
5. PREPAREDNESS
6. RED CROSS CNMI CHAPTER
7. COMMONWEALTH CANCER ASSOCIATION
8. DEQ
9. JOETEN KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Diamond G Rice \$13⁵⁰ 20 lb.	Kruataia Coconut Milk 99¢	Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.	Gold Medal Flour \$3²⁵ 37.02 OZ.	Royal Spaghetti Noodle \$2⁴⁹ 1 kg.	White Sugar 2kg \$2⁷⁹ 2 KG.	Lotus Rice 50lbs. \$25⁹⁹	Vega Shrimps \$5⁷⁵ /LB.	Kikkoman Soy Sauce \$4²⁵ 1.6 L.
King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal \$31⁹⁹	Country Lime Lemonade, Tang Orange, Kool-Aid \$7⁹⁹	Coffee Mate \$7⁹⁹ 50 OZ.	Folgers Coffee \$11⁹⁹ 33.3 OZ.	Maxwell Coffee Mix \$7⁹⁹ 100CT.	Fresco Vegetable Oil \$9⁴⁹ 1 GAL.	Wilkins Water \$2⁹⁹ 6000ML	Saipan Ice Water 500ml \$5⁹⁹ CASE	Ace Butane Gas \$22⁹⁹ CASE

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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The 20-minute solution

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.

For those of you digging into language studies, particularly for Asian languages, I'm going to mention my take on the care and feeding of a good tutor. Kindly note that I am not giving advice; I'm not qualified to give advice in this area. But I can relate my experience for anyone who is interested, particularly those of you who have earned a few gray hairs and who probably can't spend years taking language classes.

My peers and I stepped off the Chinese classroom train after the third semester. We all had the same reaction to things: We found that the classroom time was hitting the point of diminishing returns, but that our tutors were proving more and more valuable.

A good tutor is hard to find.

I've had the best luck with tutors who are either my age or older and who are of managerial or professional status. I'm not interested in learning to speak like the teenagers at the mall. I don't want to be cool. I want to be polite.

Of course, people who fit my ideal tutor profile put a high value on their time. They're not going to be hanging around somewhere looking for someone to talk to. Indeed, desirability and availability are an inverse function. That's not merely a law of foreign language; that's a law of microeconomics.

Outside of the courses I took, where the tutors were paid by the college, all my tutors have been volunteers, either friends or friends of friends.

I've kept them in the tutor loop by minimizing the amount of time they spend with me. My target time frame is 20 minutes per session. That's all. Even a busy person has 20 minutes to squeeze into their schedule. This has worked well thus far.

I've found that I can get a lot done in that 20 minutes, as long as I prepare for a few hours in advance. First, I write a list of the new words and phrases that I want to learn. Then I learn them. Once I've got that under control, I'm ready to see my tutor.

When I'm with my tutor, each one of us has a copy of my material, and I read aloud from my copy like an actor auditioning for a play. That's for pronunciation. The written text is also reviewed for written errors and grammar is addressed at this point, too.

After my errors are corrected, and after improvements and refinements are noted, if there is any time left we drift into a bit of conversation.

Uh, conversation? I mean that term loosely. I'm still too lousy at Chinese to be able to actually hold a real conversation. I'm still at the rudimentary question-and-response level. I lack the skill to ride any spontaneous tangent that presents itself.

Still, I've found that my 20-minute approach is easy on a volunteer tutor, since they don't have to come up with any ideas or lesson plans. I'm not taxing their brains or their time. We just work through my little list, then, presto, we're done.

Another advantage of my 20-minute concept is that my tutors need only speak minimal English. I'm not asking them to distill ideas or explain concepts from thin air. I can follow the basic gist of their corrections in Chinese. Chinese grammar, at least insofar as I can fathom it, is largely a function of what order the words are in, so it's a simple process for them to draw lines to re-order a sentence.

I'm hoping that I can improve to the point where my tutors

See **SOLUTION** on Page 13

Unsustainable financial course

The CNMI is now on an unsustainable financial course toward total financial paralysis, if not already. How do you gauge this phenomenon? The annual budget was around \$256 million a decade or so ago. Today, this has declined to \$114 million, a drop of some \$142 million. Doesn't this drop mean anything to government planners?

Too, you know something's terribly wrong at the base when fiscal ruin is inevitable because government spending has grown far larger (deficit-wise) than the productive part of the economy. Investment exodus gushed out of the floodgates dovetailed by the deafening lack of policy on reinvestment. It only exacerbates deteriorating fiscal conditions further.

It presents leadership with a painfully and persistently dizzying query: How do you stem the tsunami of fiscal calamity? Complacency or acquiescence isn't the answer either. How could one ignore objective reality?

Our cumulative deficit of over \$345 million coupled with simultaneous deficit spending is a tale that public sector spends more than what it generates. This debt doesn't include the lack of budget for CHC, Medicaid, medical referral, PSS, and NMC, among others.

When nothing else works to spur new revenue streams, our men of wisdom are likely to impose assorted taxes to make up the difference in revenue loss. They'd move the burden to paying off debts to the taxpayers—you and I. Am I making sense?

The bottom line in the myriad of miseries prompted by the worsening fiscal calamity is how much would each of us pay—child, man, and woman—over the long haul in cumulative debts? Is it more like \$8,365 over and above what we cough out today? As the tax base shrinks could the rest of us afford what unbridled spending would demand from our battered family pocketbooks?

Deficit spending continues its upward spiral as we brave another day with empty coffers. CHC is bogged down with the lack of funds to meeting critical needs to avoid losing vital federal funds. Something would have to give to stem a financially unsustainable course the NMI is in today.

■ ■ ■

Rough road ahead, financially

National Republicans are ready to slam the brakes on spending by cutting down on entitlement programs to stem the \$16 trillion federal debt. In reality, politicians from both sides of the aisle are equally guilty of driving up the debt out of fear of losing their re-election bid.

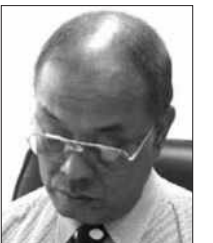
The more conservative bunch isn't giving an inch on entitlements like food stamps, Medicaid and Medicare, and housing, among others. They stick to their guns to teach a man how to fish so he eats for a lifetime.

"These programs were originally designed to help those who fall on hard times and need a safety net. Public policy should head back in that direction. The welfare reform of 1996 helped lift recipients out of poverty and back into jobs by requiring, among other things, that they work. President Obama has undone that requirement. And there are dozens more anti-poverty programs that should be revamped to help those who are able to

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



move toward self-sufficiency.

"We cannot continue on a course of unlimited government spending when fewer and fewer taxpayers are paying for that spending. That is the financial fact. But we also cannot sustain the American Dream on this course—and that is a fact that is intensely personal for every American."

The aspect of fewer and fewer taxpayers paying into the federal coffers is very troubling. If we fail to stop unbridled federal spending, these programs would eventually come to a screeching halt because of the lack of funds to keep them going. So if we're looking toward a generous Uncle Sam on entitlement programs next year, don't keep your hopes high.

Governance crunches numbers

Public officials sashay to and from their offices boasting "business as usual" in very "unusual times." You don't see this behavior in ordinary citizens who feel that raw suspicion that something's woefully wrong at home. It's the numbers crunch game from dawn to dusk.

Household heads quiz the future security of their jobs and can they still afford paying for the first family home? Would they have to deal with underemployment and eventually devolve into partaking in the humiliating NAP line? What if the strength of the current family pocketbook is compromised by joblessness?

These are legitimate questions are careening in and out of their minds as they brave guarded smiles at family gatherings. Would they still be able to meet health cost amidst debilitating economic conditions while hospital fees have just gone up in recent weeks? What percentage of the population would eventually deal with social safety nets given the consistently debilitating economic meltdown? It's all dizzying, isn't it?

High on dope and broke!

In recent past, we've seen movements to bring in casino and dope into the islands. Politicians peddling the former believe it could generate revenues to defray debts owed the Fund and return 80 bi-weekly work hours to employees.

The question is simple: Do we have the basic infrastructure (meaning several million wealthy people) to support the industry? Isn't it true that the ghostly clientele are mostly food stamps recipients? Isn't it true that tourists from our major market (Japan) prefer exploring and assimilating into the cultural traditions of the NMI versus gambling? It seems these set of facts nullify making casino

See **FINANCIAL** on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**The Kilili I know**

If the ongoing soap opera in the CNMI government teaches us anything, it is that we are more than justified in being contemptuous and untrusting of our elected officials. In our atmosphere of shady political dealings littered with “gutless wonders,” as Zaldy Dandan so aptly described it, it is easy to see how our trust in our leaders has eroded so dramatically.

We should not lose hope in all our elected officials, however. We still have selfless and loyal public servants working on a daily basis for the betterment of the CNMI. They work without ulterior motives, away from back door dealings, and they care passionately about upholding the trust given them by the people. This may seem idealistic and naïve but I know this to be true because I have had the fortunate opportunity to work for such an admirable public servant. His name is Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

In January of this year, I began working for Kilili, initially as an intern then as a staff assistant in the Washington, D.C. office. In my time there, I was able to witness how hard he works to accomplish the great successes that appear almost daily in the news. While these victories are certainly achieved with the assistance of the diligent and immensely talented staff of the office, I firmly believe that much of the attribution can be given to Kilili’s work ethic, infectious passion, and his steadfast commitment to people. These characteristics do not appear in the news but they underlie every success achieved, and without them the quality of our representation in the CNMI would be greatly diminished. These characteristics make up the Kilili that I know.

Work ethic

Within my first few days working with Kilili, it was apparent beyond a doubt that persistence and determination are in full supply when he is working for the CNMI. Kilili is busy working from the early morning ‘til far past sunset, oftentimes one of the first in the office and the last to leave. This is an even nobler endeavor given that because of his dedication to keep a firm connection to the issues of our people, he makes the long and arduous journey from Washington to the CNMI as often as the congressional schedule permits. While in Washington, Kilili tackles a full schedule of meetings, hearings, and other congressional responsibilities with remarkable energy, which as anyone who has battled jetlag can attest, is an incredible feat. The distance between Washington and the NMI makes for a time difference of about 14 hours. This means that when all other congressional offices close their doors at 5pm or 6pm, the work of Kilili’s office persists, greeting late night callers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with a warm, “Good morning.” From two different time zones and a world apart, it would be difficult to find anyone who works harder or with more determination and persistence than Kilili.

Passion

I was always proud to tell people on Capitol Hill whom I worked for. When they heard the name Sablan, they knew who he was and how hard he works for our people. In a town where who you know matters far more than what you know, Kilili’s reputation and, most importantly, his passion are invaluable assets to have. I have seen what genuine passion for a cause can accomplish. I have witnessed, in astonishment, as individuals in Washington commit their energy and time to work for the betterment of the CNMI. Some of these people have never been to our islands, but in their conversations with Kilili they have been so motivated by his passion to serve that they feel compelled to use the means available

to them to help the CNMI. This is emblematic of the infectious enthusiasm Kilili has for his position and responsibilities. The best example I can offer to underscore this point is that despite my long-developed cynicism of politics in the CNMI, Kilili has reinvented my own passion to serve. In my conversations with him, I have learned that the corruption and greed we all see are not grounds to shy away from public service, but are the reasons that motivate loyal and courageous public servants to take responsibility and turn the tide.

Commitment to the people

“This Office Belongs to the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

These words are engraved on a plaque outside the doors of Kilili’s Washington, D.C. office. These words are not only a welcome for all those from the NMI who visit the office, but they are a constant reminder to Kilili and the staff of who they are working for and the just cause for which they fight. Kilili believes in these words. Even with his full schedule, Kilili still makes the conscious effort to meet with every constituent. I have seen him drop everything he is doing to meet with a family who had traveled to D.C. and were excited to meet their congressman. He does this because he knows why he is there, and he knows for whom he is working so hard. This is the most important characteristic that I have observed during my time with the office. You can possess the most violent passion and the strongest work ethic, but without a personal obligation to use them in the service of the public, in the end your actions are meaningless. Kilili works for the people because he wants to improve the CNMI. He wasn’t the name optioned at the bottom of a long list of unwilling candidates nor did he need to be handpicked and convinced to run by an overarching political tyrant, quite the opposite in fact. Kilili’s motivation to continue to run for this position is the people of the CNMI, the students and families, the hungry and the impoverished, the youth and the *man’amko*, the Democrats, independent Republicans, new Republicans and the Covenant Party members, and even those who despise him. The plaque says it all—the office, with all its successes, victories, and every last bit of its commitment, belongs to the people of the CNMI.

Judging from the numerous letters of support for Kilili, many strongly approve of his job performance. I am writing this letter not only to offer my personal praise for the congressman, but also to suggest that we use his example when selecting all of our elected officials. We continue to support Kilili because of his exemplary record, his successes, and abovementioned characteristics, but what if we extended that practice. Imagine if we decided to vote not on the basis of family connections, political party affiliation, or education, but on the character of the individual and his or her commitment to work hard and be relentlessly passionate about improving the lives of our people. That alone is not the silver bullet to end our woes, but it would be one heck of a start.

Earlier this month, I left the D.C. office to pursue my graduate education. I am grateful to Kilili for the opportunity to be a part of the great legacy he is creating for the CNMI. I am proud and honored to have had him as a boss, and I am filled with even more pride because he is my congressman. Of all the experience I have gained, the greatest has to be the firm belief and conviction that Kilili is the kind of public servant the CNMI needs and deserves.

Matthew Deleon Guerrero
New York City, New York

Kilili is wrong

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, I think your letter regarding me was all backwards and wrong, no disrespect intended. I am sure readers will agree it was Mr. JP Attao who attacked me. I didn’t even know he existed until he started writing about me. If you are troubled that I merely defended myself, well then, how should I feel considering all the unnecessary, ugly, and evil things he did to try and assassinate my character?

Readers know why you wrote about me and you must also know what Mr. JP Attao did so I must ask: Do you really condone and support what he did, trying to slander my character and his use of personal information that could have only come from you or your relatives? I think voters should be troubled with the stance you took trying to defend someone who was clearly the offender, committing acts that were ugly, disrespectful and even evil—all in your name, sir. But I can thank God, a priest, my experiences, and the wisdom I have gained over the years for guiding me as he finally gave up.

I have not criticized you and voters are still waiting on you to answer the serious questions I posed to you. I’m sure voters would also like to know, how will a Democrat like yourself be more effective than Dr. Demapan in a Republican-ruled Congress? Is it not true that Dr. Demapan will be in better position as a Republican than you to persuade a GOP Congress to help us more? As you can see from this question, I have only explained and exposed the facts and truths that reflect your inferiorities compared to Dr. Demapan and your failures as our representative, which you must know is part of the vetting process.

You should also know it was Mr. Attao’s job to promote your accomplishments and superiorities, like I’m doing for Dr. Demapan, not attack me. I think it was a bit of grandstanding for you to try and come to his rescue in a writing match as he is a veteran and should be able to take what he dishes out. I personally believe and so do a lot of readers that he was on a mission for you to stop me from writing and it failed.

As for you being in the company of great people in Congress, many of them I met long before you even thought about running for delegate. If I’m not mistaken the John Lewis you mentioned is the same John Lewis I marched with in the Civil Rights Movement. I also respect every person who has served and is serving in all our public services, especially the military and DPS as they put their lives on the line every day—so you are off base with your accusation. But I do want to thank you for at least acknowledging my right to free speech even though I got mixed message from your letter. I never disrespected anyone in this paper, I may have said things that made them feel bad, embarrassed and even mad but it wasn’t disrespectful when it is the truth and anyone who knows me can tell you I’m not afraid of the heat as I am the one who usually ends up turning up the heat.

Delegate Kilili, most readers know I truly care about the CNMI and that I am do-

ing what I think and truly believe is right and best for the people, they know I am telling the truth, they know that all my predictions in the past have come true (eight for eight), which includes my prediction about our present economic demise that I forecasted back in 2005 and the impeachment issue will make my record nine for nine when it is over. Voters also know I warned them about you and other leaders with this political impeachment fiasco for an election season. But most importantly is the fact that voters know I’m right when I said your record is zero legislation passed in four years and people deserve more from Congress. I know you did a lot to get extra money for us but those little handouts don’t come close to what we really need. The \$200,000 you just got us for the market is a great example of too little for us to do the job right and even too late as we must now redevelop a plan.

I’m sure you are aware that political science, her qualifications and the GOP affiliation of Dr. Demapan dictate that she is the better candidate. Even though you were the favorite when this election season started, there are such things as upsets. I’m saying this because voters are indeed upset over the events of this election season and I would not be surprised at all if voters come to realize that they need to upset our entire government starting with you. Voters certainly don’t want to go back to the same old thing of you and the governor fighting and you being virtually helpless as a Democrat in Congress. It will indeed be interesting to see if voters will rely on the science of politics for what they really want, need and deserve or will they continue with the popularity elections I have talked about for years. I would like to believe the impeachment has awakened voters to see through the smoke and mirrors that were created by you and other leader to get re-elected and they will choose wisely this time.






Dr. Demapan is truly in the best position to deliver the most for us all. Your service has truly been appreciated but we just need more than you can offer. I’m sure you will agree that the services you have provided like the town hall meetings, the offices on Tinian and Rota, and all the protocols and photo opportunities you have carried out will continue regardless of who our delegate might be. I don’t have anything personal against you but the CNMI is real opportunity to make progress in Congress and we can’t afford another two years and no legislations being passed. You and the senator have admitted we will be facing a challenge with a GOP-run Congress and I feel confident that common sense is telling voters our only chance to improve our representation in Congress is with a Republican if we are to have any real chance of getting what we need and want from Congress. You were wrong to attack me but I’m really glad you did as it really exposed you for who you really are.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

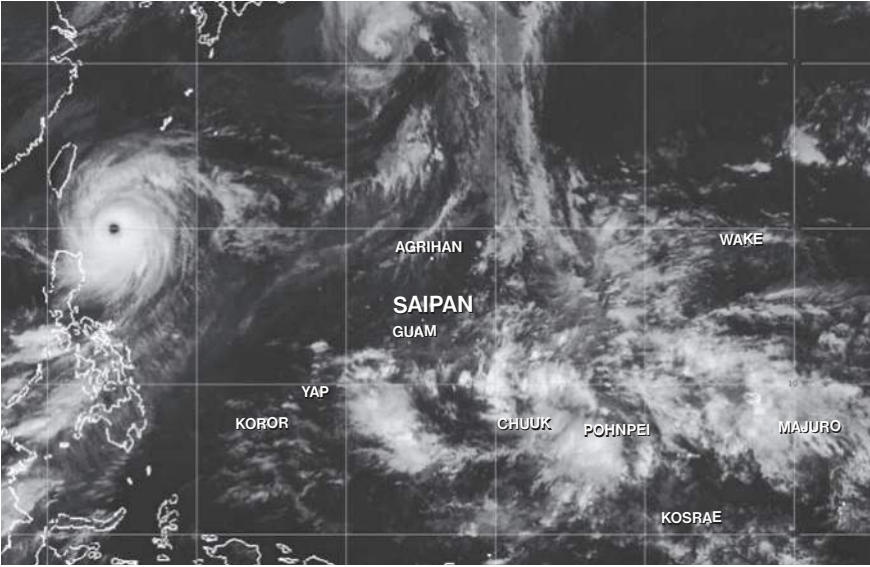
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 63 ▼ 56
Beijing	Windy	▲ 73 ▼ 51
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
New York	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 59
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 66
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 48
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 62
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 67
Salem	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 58
Seoul	Showers	▲ 74 ▼ 59
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 70
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 65

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:41 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends eastward from 10 N140E through a weak circulation centered southeast of Guam near 10N147E through a second circulation centered northwest of Pohnpei near 7N156E then turns southeastward to end near 4N164E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring east of Yap within 140 miles of a line from 11N141E to 5N146E. Similar weather is found between Chuuk and Pohnpei within 220 miles of a line from 12N150E to 4N159E. Converging east trade winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within 200 miles of a line from 12N158E to 4N and the date line. An upper-level trough stretching southwestward from 25N160E to 13N155E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Minami Tori Shima within 140 miles of a line from 23N155E to 14N160E. Converging southeast winds south of Tropical Storm Ewinar are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Iwo to island between 25N and 22N from 141E to 145E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:42 PM	4:11 AM
Saturday	5:22 PM	5:02 AM
Sunday	6:02 PM	5:53 AM
Monday	6:42 PM	6:42 AM
Tuesday	7:23 PM	7:32 AM

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
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 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CNMI Economic Crisis 2012

If our elected politicians understand our economic situation,

FINANCIAL

From Page 10

no a sustainable industry here, right? So why press it when facts say the exact opposite?

In short, had there been sufficient number of wealthy locals on Tinian and Rota then their casino industry would be sizzling daily, sparkling with glitz and glamour nightly. But the fact is locals in any of the three islands just don't have the disposable income to funnel into a game of chance. Not in a listless economy when every penny counts.

The perfect recipe offered is the medicinal part of dope or marijuana. It could very well be another arm in new revenue source for the NMI. In either case, we'd be wobbling and staggering everywhere we go, high on dope further exacerbated by total bankruptcy for chancing the balance of the family budget on a game of chance. Is this your vision of our future—high on dope and hopelessly broke?

SOLUTION

From Page 10

need not speak English at all. I think I'm getting close, but I've chased a lot of mirages in Chinese, so I'm not casting any expectations.

And I am cutting a few corners, I'll admit. I've cut way back on the handwriting side of things, content to focus more on the reading and speaking.

Furthermore, I'm content to keep my grammar grounded at a simple level.

I wasn't much interested in deep grammar when I studied French, I'll confess.

And I don't know, or care, anything about grammar in English. I'm a communicator, not a linguistic bean-counter. I don't want to be right. I want to be clear.

So it's certain that Chinese won't change my grammar attitude. My focus is to (a) get the words in the right order, and (b) to convey whether I'm talking about the past, present, or future. As for (c), there isn't any (c), folks. Not for me, there isn't. At that point, whatever happens, happens.

In fact, that "whatever" outlook defines my entire outlook. I'm not good at Chinese. I never will be good at it. So my only choice is to either quit entirely or keep engaged at a light level.

Well, the choice is made. And the 20-minute tutor tactic is my light level.

Thus concludes my latest situation report from the linguistic trenches. Many folks on Saipan are fighting the same battle. So, let's march on!

they have a responsibility to communicate the truth to citizens. We've watched a generation of them profiteer at the expense of our most financially and educationally challenged residents, and citizens must now take responsibility for a failed system of governance and address the economic reality here, as nothing less is acceptable.

The CNMI is collapsing because the world's circumstances changed, and we were unable to adapt to such rapidly changing economics. The NMI was founded on economic principles based on protectionism, or giving locals unproductive government jobs supervising professionals and alien labor, which was not only discriminatory, it just didn't work, and the sooner

residents accept that the better off we will all be.

We have thousands of unproductive CNMI government employees and we can't afford them. Garment industry revenues directly funded those jobs and that funding dropped to zero by January 2009. We must structure an action plan and streamline the workforce because we have no choice. We must also reduce the size and costs of our Legislature, not only because we can't afford them but because they have proven ineffective and helpless on every level.

An experienced city manager would reduce our employment, take control of our finances, end corruption thereby encouraging investment, address our infra-

structure inadequacies, recover CHC with accountability, arrange payments for the Fund, and handle the simple matter of reducing our electricity cost. This is all attainable with a reasonably constructed action plan.

Citizens will lose their unproductive jobs and those salaries will no longer circulate locally and this will temporarily worsen our economy. A quarterly reduction over several years will work for the CNMI, though. Affected persons can apply for private sector jobs, return to school or other training, or start a small business to replace exiting aliens, seek opportunity in the mainland, or file for welfare/food stamps. This isn't painless but it will work, and we can't continue a system of hiring aliens for unskilled labor, knowing citizens are capable of filling those jobs. The CNMI can't afford to pay nonsensical do-nothing jobs, titles, boards, and councils any longer. The major-

ity of local jobs are fraud, everyone knows it, and we as citizens have a duty to stop it. The days of having multiple mayors with staffs of 80 relatives that don't report for work must stop. I assure you it will, so we may as well prepare for it.

The problems with CHC, CUC, the Fund, PSS, and other NMI positions are identical, and summarized by an anonymous MV commenter about CHC:

"There is absolutely no reason whatsoever why we cannot have a perfectly fine hospital—well equipped with excellent and competitively compensated staff. But it is not possible as long as the hospital is run by politicians who want to control everything and support nothing. We can have a modern facility complete with a cath lab, an MRI, a new CT scan and all the other programs a commu-

nity of this size needs. Everyone has always known that we must hire outside expertise in management, billing, coding reimbursement, grant writing and restructuring. Everyone agrees this should be done and "they are working on it." But no one ever actually gets around to doing it—even now. The reason—political hires, nepotism, incompetence and bone laziness."

The NMI government has long been torn between control and prosperity. The most effective solution for our children's future is constructing a leaner CNMI, capable of reacting to a fiercely competitive ever changing world. And this problem is not America's; the task rests with us, and it is never going away until it is resolved.

Ron Hodges
Puerto Rico, Saipan

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 <p>2004 Honda Accord LX STOCK # 4A068311 \$12,995⁰⁰</p>	 <p>2010 Honda Civic LX STOCK # AE035279 \$16,995⁰⁰</p>	 <p>2009 Kia Soul Sport STOCK # A7117737 \$16,995⁰⁰</p>
 <p>2009 Kia Rio LX STOCK # A6673680 \$12,995⁰⁰</p>	 <p>2008 Mazda RX8 STOCK # 80214167 \$16,995⁰⁰</p>	 <p>2008 Nissan Quest S STOCK # 8N111101 \$18,995⁰⁰</p>
 <p>Joseph (Jay) Cabrera Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562</p>	 <p>2009 Nissan Altima S STOCK # 9C188438 \$18,995⁰⁰</p>	 <p>2008 Ford Ranger Sport 4x4 STOCK # 8PA43917 \$21,995⁰⁰</p>

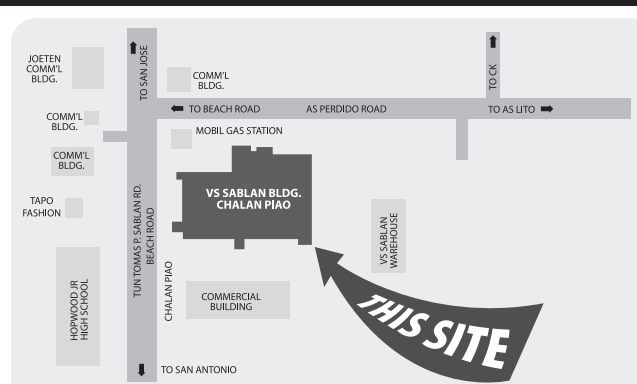
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McDonald's steps up to the plate for Club 200



From left, McDonald's president and owner Joe Ayuyu, customer service department manager Gisel Dela Rosa, and store general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu present a \$1,000 check to American Red Cross – NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, board member Bob Coldeen, emergency services director J.D. Tenorio, and health & safety manager Kennedy Benjamin, Thursday, Sept. 27, at the McDonald's Chalan Laolao store. Along with the check, McDonald's gave \$200 worth of gift certificates to be used at ARC's Club 200 dinner and raffle event.

ARC STAFF

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Continuing its legacy of goodwill and generosity, McDonald's Saipan made a \$1,000 donation in support of American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 24th Annual Club 200 next month.

President and owner Joe Ayuyu, his wife and store general manager Marcia Ayuyu, customer service department manager Gisel Dela Rosa, and human resource and marketing manager Ana Olaes presented yesterday the check donation plus \$200 worth of reloadable McDonald's gift cards to Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, board member Bob Coldeen, emergency services director J.D. Tenorio, and health & safety manager Kennedy Benjamin.

The brief presentation was held at the McDonald's Chalan Laolao store.

Ayuyu commended the local chapter of the humanitarian organization, particularly its executive director, for their efforts in providing emergency assistance, disaster relief and education, and much more.

"All the work you're doing is outstanding and your team is also doing great," Ayuyu told Hirsh.

In a later interview, Ayuyu expressed hope that their donation would spur "more companies would follow suit and also make donations to the Red Cross, which needs help in doing a lot of good things for people."

The 24th Annual American Red Cross Club 200 is slated for Oct. 6, Saturday, from 5pm to 10pm at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. Tickets to the event, which has the theme "Way Out West," cost \$100 per person.

Hirsh said that McDonald's Saipan has always supported the Red Cross almost every year, even doing promotions for the volunteer-led organization. "It's really a privilege to be connected to organizations like McDonald's because they're a global leader in the industry and very community-minded," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hirsh said the Club 200 event now has between 30 to 40 sponsors, including Asiana Airlines, which, for the first time donated roundtrip airline ticket to anywhere they fly in the world except for U.S.

Airline tickets and other donations comprise Club 200's prizes for its raffle draw, including the grand prize of \$15,000.

According to Hirsh, ticket sales are doing well but anticipates an upsurge in the last few days leading to the event, which will feature live entertainment, all-you-can-eat buffet and bottomless drinks station, and a night of fun with family and friends—"all for a great cause."

To buy tickets or for more information, call 234-3459.

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Efforts under way for Operation Homefront Support 2012



ARC STAFF

Organizers from the American Red Cross, Xerox, IT&E, Docomo Pacific, Marianas Cable Vision, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Mount Carmel School, and the Family Readiness Group discuss this year's plans for Operation CNMI Homefront Support, Wednesday, Sept. 26, at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter conference room. For the last four years, the operation has sent approximately 1,000 holiday care packages to servicemembers from the NMI who are serving abroad in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Several organizations held an initial meeting Wednesday, Sept. 26, at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter conference room to discuss plans for Operation CNMI Homefront Support, an initiative to send care packages to servicemembers from the CNMI who are currently serving abroad in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"It does not matter what race, gender, religious affiliation, or ethnicity the servicemember is from, all service-

members from the CNMI who are serving abroad will get a care package," said John Hirsh, executive director for the NMI Chapter. "We have felt that it is the least we can do for our men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line for us."

This year, Nola Hix, the service and solutions executive of Xerox Corp. for the NMI, will be taking the lead on the operation.

"I am glad to be on board

again this year," Hix said. "I too have family members who are serving in the military, and this is a small way of us showing our support for them."

Members of the community have been very supportive toward this initiative, said Hirsh.

"Every year that we have this event, members of the NMI community come out and show their support by donating canned goods and local goodies in whatever capacity they can," Hirsh said.

Despite this, every year the operation always faces the same challenge.

"One of the biggest challenges we face each year is getting correct names, titles, and addresses of servicemembers," Hirsh said.

Because of the sensitivity of troop movement, oftentimes servicemembers will relocate, and their families in the NMI will not know about it until weeks or even months down the line, an Operation Homefront Support representative said.

Operation Homefront Support started about five years ago with only a few members involved. Today the operation has expanded involving multiple partnerships between various organizations in both public and private sectors.

In addition to the American Red Cross and Xerox, representatives from IT&E, Docomo Pacific, Marianas Cable Vision, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Mount Carmel School, and the Family Readiness Group for U.S. Army

Reserve, Saipan, were also in attendance. (ARC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC offices closed and classes canceled on Oct. 3

Northern Marianas College employees will be participating in the upcoming NMC Strategic Planning Summit on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. All NMC offices on Saipan will be closed on this day. All classes scheduled for this day have also been canceled; students are advised to contact their instructors for make-up class time. For any campus emergency, contact NMC Security at 234-5498 Ext. 1911. For more information about upcoming events, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Marine Corps training on FDM

The U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from 4pm, Sept. 28, to 4pm, Oct. 5. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)

SHEFA announcement

The deadline to submit supporting documents for the fall 2012 term is on or by Oct. 1, 2012. For more information, call (670) 233-5995 or email us at contact@saipanshefa.com. (PR)

Tsunami awareness workshop

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, International Tsunami Information Center, Hawaii State Civil Defense, and National Weather Services in Guam, is conducting a CNMI Tsunami Awareness Workshop and Training Course AWR-217 on Saipan today, Sept. 28, 2012, at Kanoa Resort, Saipan. The session is primarily for government officials and non-government agencies that are a normal part of the Response Action Team, and for hotels, business sector, other non-government agencies, and the media. (PR)

District court's clerk of court Perez retires

Galo Lujan Perez, clerk of court for the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, has announced his retirement, effective Nov. 2, 2012.

For 48 years, Perez has devoted his working life to service to the judiciaries in the Northern Marianas and Guam. He began his career in 1964 as a deputy clerk in the Guam Superior Court. In 1969, he joined the federal judiciary at the District Court of Guam, where he became chief deputy clerk. In 1991, then Chief Judge Alex R. Munson invited Perez to join the CNMI District Court as Clerk of Court.

Perez shepherded the dis-

trict court through the transition from Munson's retirement in February 2010 through the first year of the tenure of Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona. He was instrumental in organizing the successful landmark visit to Saipan of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in January this year.

"The District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands gratefully acknowledges Mr. Perez's lifetime contribution and particularly his 48 years of public service in the administration of justice in the United States courts," a U.S. District Court for the NMI statement said. (U.S. District Court for the NMI)



Perez

Learn about ancient Chamorro material culture

The Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center will be hosting a PowerPoint presentation tomorrow, Sept. 29, 2012 on "Ancient Chamorro Material Culture: Reconstructing and Preserving the Past," by Noel Quitagua.

Special invitations go out to all CNMI Chamorro and Carolinian teachers, Chamorro and or Carolinian cultural club members, and all young Chamorro and Carolinians. The presentation will have historical accounts, written and with illustrations.

This will be an open forum with a question-and-answer session. The presentation will start at 9am and will last until about 4pm, with lunch in between.

Quitagua will talk about the uses of natural materials (dos

and don'ts), production of authentic Chamorro craft, making of craft for body wear, tools, weapon, and the traditional processing and use of tools. He will also do demonstrations on material culture reconstruction (jewelry making) from beginning to completion.

This presentation is made possible by a grant from the Administration for Native Americans to the Inetnon Amotyan Kutturán Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw. For more information, call 322-0278.

The Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is located at 1213 Capitol Hill Road, across from the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency (WIA) and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health



In a continuing effort to provide adequate access of nutritious foods for CNMI WIC participants, the CNMI WIC Program is pleased to announce the following authorized CNMI WIC Vendors Effective October 1, 2012.

Saipan

I-Mart
Kagman Market
Joeten Dandan Store
Joeten Hafadai
Han Nam Supermarket
Sara Market II
EZ Mart
Blue Sky Supermarket
San Jose Mart
Payless Supermarket
PHI Pharmacy I

Tanapag
Kagman
Dandan
Garapan
Koblerville
Capitol Hill
Gualo Rai
Chalan Piao
San Jose
Chalan Kanoa
Navy Hill

Farmers Market

Sabalu Market
Tuesday Market

Susupe
Garapan

Tinian

Tian Hong Market
J & J Mart

San Jose
San Jose

Rota

Sinapalo Safeway
Lucky Store

Sinapalo
Songsong

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability."

To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

"Healthy Families for A Lifetime"

DCCA - Division of Youth Services 2012 Enforcing Underage Drinking Law (EUDL) Prevention Activities



MHS Youth Summit



"Made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention"

ENFORCING UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS (EUDL)

A Grant Project Program Under the Juvenile Probation Unit

CNMI High School EUDL Banner



EUDL Back to School Night (Gift of Giving)



MHS Guam Youth to Youth Conference

The Underage Drinking Prevention Program is a community partnership program that raises awareness to educate and mobilize youths to change and improve their quality of life.

Giving Alcohol to Minors is ILLEGAL!
21 is the legal drinking age.

Advertisement made possible by a grant from the Department of Justice- OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws.

Business

Greek riots, Spanish marches shatter market calm

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Europe's fragile financial calm was shattered Wednesday as investors worried that violent anti-austerity protests in Greece and Spain's debt troubles showed that the continent still cannot contain its financial crisis. Police fired tear gas Wednesday at rioters hurling

gasoline bombs and chunks of marble during Greece's largest anti-austerity demonstration in six months. The protests were part of a 24-hour general strike, the latest test for Greece's nearly four-month-old coalition government and the new spending cuts it plans to push through.

The brief but intense clashes by several hundred rioters among the 60,000 people protesting in Athens came a day after anti-austerity protests rocked the Spanish capital.

In Madrid, thousands of angry protesters again swarmed as close as they could get Wednesday night to Parlia-

ment, watched by a heavy contingent of riot police. There was no fresh violence, but the demonstrators cut off traffic on one of the city's major thoroughfares at the height of the evening commute.

The protesters chanted for the release of 34 people detained Tuesday night in clashes that injured 64 others. They also demanded new elections to oust Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and his conservative government, which has imposed cutbacks and tax hikes, deepening the gloom in a country struggling with recession and unem-

ployment of nearly 25 percent, the highest among the 17 nations using the common euro currency.

Spain's central bank warned Wednesday the country's economy continues to shrink "significantly," sending the Spanish stock index tumbling and its borrowing costs rising.

Across Europe, stock markets fell as well. Germany's DAX dropped 2 percent while the CAC-40 in France fell 2.4 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 slid 1.4 percent. The euro was also hit, down a further 0.3 percent at \$1.2840.

Fewer US CEOs planning to hire

WASHINGTON (AP)—A survey of U.S. chief executives shows a sharp drop in the number of large companies that plan to add jobs or hire more workers.

The Business Roundtable said Wednesday that only 29 percent of its member CEOs plan to increase hiring over the next six months. That's down from 36 percent in June, when the group last released its quarterly survey. It's also much lower than the 52 percent of CEOs in early 2011 who said they planned to boost hiring, the highest percentage since the survey began in 2002.

Jim McNerney, chairman of the Roundtable and CEO of The Boeing Co., said CEOs are worried about the impact of budget cuts and tax increases that are set to take effect at the start of next year. The pending U.S. budget changes are known as the "fiscal cliff." Chief execu-

tives are also concerned about economic slowdowns in Europe and China.

The cliff "certainly throws cold water on long-term business planning," he said in a conference call with reporters.

Only 30 percent of CEOs expect to increase their investment in capital goods such as machinery, computers or other equipment. Companies usually buy such goods when they are expanding. That's down sharply from 43 percent three months ago.

Large-company CEOs are more pessimistic about their future sales and the overall U.S. economy, the survey found. While 58 percent expect their sales to increase over the next six months, that's down from 75 percent in the June report. And the CEOs forecast the economy will expand just 1.9 percent this year, below their 2.1 percent forecast three months earlier.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

More workers at American Airlines take severance

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—American Airlines says almost 1,600 mechanics and maintenance clerks are seeking early-out payments to leave the financially strapped carrier. The workers could get \$12,500 to \$22,500 depending on their jobs. American said Wednesday that it expects employees taking the payments will leave over the next 12 months. Another 1,200 bag handlers signed up last month for early-out payments, which are intended to reduce layoffs. The airline sent layoff notices last week to more than 11,000 ground workers but said fewer than 4,400 would be furloughed. American parent AMR Corp., based in Fort Worth, Texas, filed for bankruptcy protection in November and is trying to cut annual labor spending by about \$1 billion through layoffs, reduced benefits and other changes.

American Greetings gets offer to go private

CLEVELAND (AP)—American Greetings Corp. said Wednesday that a group led by its CEO and chief operating officer wants to buy the company and take it private in a deal that values it at about \$581 million. The Cleveland-based greeting card company's shares jumped 15 percent on the news. American Greetings, whose brands also include Carlton Cards, Recycled Paper Greetings and Papyrus, said its board received the proposal from Chief Executive Zev Weiss and his brother, President and Chief Operating Officer Jeffrey Weiss, on Tuesday. The group, which also includes other investors and members of the executives' families, wants to acquire all of the company's common stock that it doesn't currently own for \$17.18 per share. That is a 20 percent premium over American Greetings' Tuesday closing stock price.

RadioShack CEO Gooch steps down

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—RadioShack said Wednesday that its CEO is leaving under an agreement with the board, the latest blow for the struggling electronics retailer. RadioShack said James Gooch will step down immediately and is leaving its board of directors. Chief Financial Officer Dorvin Lively will serve as its interim CEO while it looks for a permanent replacement, the company said. RadioShack has faced declining net income in the past two years.



AP

A fire bomb explodes among riot police during clashes in Athens Wednesday Sept. 26, 2012.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Foreten Commercial Building, Garoai Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-013

KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER REHABILITATION

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Kagman Community Health Center Rehabilitation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 21, 2012 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on October 11, 2012 9:00 a.m. local time at the Kagman Community Health Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 17, 2012 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW12-IFB-013". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 24, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 24, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@tpcm.gov. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 24, 2012 and must be received no later than November 02, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, November 06, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 29, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, in certified check, Cashier's Check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit under penalty of perjury:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Seventy Five (75) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO, Commonwealth Health Center Corporation

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHAREHOLDER MEETING

ARCTIC CIRCLE AIR CO.


All shareholders of record invited to attend Shareholders Meeting and inspect aircraft and facility.

WHEN: Friday, September 28, 2012


TIME: 5:30PM

WHERE: Arctic Circle Air offices in the old Census Building at airport. Bay # 3

Interested investors are welcome to attend to find out how you can invest in Arctic Circle Air Co.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7889, 234-7810 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



PUBLIC NOTICE

RE: Submission of Previous Month's CUC Billing Receipt

This is to inform all tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program and the New Construction/Multifamily Program that effective October 01, 2012, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) will be requiring each tenant to provide a copy of the previous month's billing receipt from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) on a monthly basis.

Therefore, for the month of October 2012, when you come in to claim your Utility Reimbursement Payment (URP) check, please have your CUC billing receipt for September 2012 ready to be submitted to NMHC. Moreover, the submission of a copy of your previous month's CUC billing receipt will be a monthly requirement. Failure to provide NMHC with a copy of your previous month's CUC billing receipt will result in NMHC holding your URP check until the billing receipt has been submitted.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Program and Housing Division at 234-6866/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

Nation

Obama makes new appeal in a two-minute ad

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trying to command attention and build his lead in the polls, President Barack Obama unveiled a new two-minute TV commercial Thursday calling for an “economic patriotism” he hopes will sweep him to a second term, urging voters to compare his plan with Republican Mitt Romney’s and “decide for yourself.”

Romney, campaigning in Ohio while polls showed him slipping in key states, declared that “I care about the people of

America” and can do more than Obama to improve their lives.

Romney’s approach reflected what he is up against: a widening Obama lead in polls in key states such as Ohio, the backlash from a leaked video in which he disparages Obama supporters as government-dependent people who see themselves as victims, and a campaign imperative to make his policy plans more plain.

With under six weeks to go, and just one week before the first big debate, Obama’s campaign reveled in the latest public polling—but tried to crush any sense of overconfidence. “If we need to pass out horse blinders

to all of our staff, we will do that,” campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

Obama readied a new ad in seven battleground states, a lengthy spot designed to cut through the clutter and outline a second-term agenda to create manufacturing jobs, promote U.S.-made energy resources,

train workers and reduce the deficit. He uses the ad to remind voters that the nation was losing nearly 800,000 jobs a month when he took office and was “mired” in Iraq but now the nation, he says, is “moving

forward again.” He charges that Romney’s plan would double-down “on the same trickle-down policies” that led to the economic crisis.

“It’s time for a new economic patriotism rooted in the belief that growing our economy begins with a strong, thriving,

middle class. Read my plan. Compare it to Gov. Romney’s and decide for yourself,” Obama says in the ad, which directs viewers to a campaign website. The ad was appearing in New Hampshire, Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Iowa, Nevada



Obama

and Colorado. Campaign aides said voters in those states would see it frequently.

Much of Wednesday’s activities were centered on Ohio, where Obama’s momentum has seemed to be growing. It’s also a state no Republican has won the White House without carrying.

Romney, eager to project confidence and brush aside suggestions that he was faltering, went after working-class voters outside Columbus and Cleveland before rolling to Toledo.

Obama rallied college crowds at Bowling Green State University and Kent State University, reminding Ohioans their state allows them to start cast ballots next week. Early voting has already begun in more than two dozen other states.

For Romney, in his appearances and in a new TV ad in which he appeals straight to the camera, it was time for plain talk to contrast himself with Obama, and to mince no words about his expectations.

Slipping in polls, Romney assures voters ‘I care’

WESTERVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Slipping in states that could sink his presidential bid, Republican Mitt Romney declared Wednesday that “I care about the people of America” and can do more than President Barack Obama to improve their lives. In an all-day Ohio duel, Obama scoffed that a challenger who calls half the nation “victims” was unlikely to be of much help.

Romney’s approach reflected what he is up against: a widening Obama lead in polls in key states such as Ohio, the backlash from a leaked video in which he disparages Obama supporters as government-dependent people who see themselves as victims, and a campaign imperative to make his policy plans more plain.

With under six weeks to go, and just one week before the first big debate, Obama’s campaign reveled in the latest public polling—but tried to crush any sense of overconfidence. “If we need to pass out horse blinders to all of our staff, we will do that,” said campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki.

The day’s setting was Ohio, where Obama’s momentum has seemed to be growing. It’s also a state no Republican has won the White House without carrying.

Romney, eager to project confidence and brush aside suggestions that he was faltering, went after working-class voters outside Columbus and Cleveland before rolling to Toledo. Obama rallied college crowds at Bowling Green State University and Kent State University, reminding Ohioans their state allows them to start cast ballots next week. Early voting has already begun in more than two dozen other states.

POI Aviation invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

Administrative Services Officer

College degree with 4 years progressive administrative experience. Must have excellent communications skills. Must be computer literate with experience in HRIS and timekeeping systems and various MS Office software. Manages the administrative functions, ensuring standards and deadlines are met. Serves as the Quality Management Representative for ISO 9001:2008.

Accounting Manager

College degree with financial management major plus 3 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communications skills and strong interpersonal skill to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, Peachtree and MS office software.

Lead Aircraft Service Agent (2)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 5 years experience in aircraft exterior and interior cleaning. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing interior cleaning of various aircraft to include cabins, lavatories and galleys. Knowledgeable in use of different kinds of cleaning equipment, tools and materials. Must possess a valid CNMI driver’s license.

Lead Ramp Agent (2)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 5 years experience in ramp, cargo loading and unloading operations. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisor, operating equipment for loading and off-loading baggage / cargo to and from the aircraft for both commercial and freight aircraft. Ability to teach operation of specialized equipment for aircraft servicing and ramp operations. Must be able to lift 70 lbs. minimum. Must possess a valid CNMI driver’s license.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (3)

Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Performs various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment. Must possess current U.S. FAA A&P License or and equivalent foreign license.

Aircraft Maintenance Technician (3)

Graduate of Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering program with 2 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Performs various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment.

Lead Aircraft Maintenance Technician

AS degree in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering and/or Aeronautical Engineering with 4 years experience in airframe and power plant maintenance on both narrow and wide-body aircraft. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the manager, performing various repairs on aircraft airframe and power plants and other required services to ensure airworthiness. Must be skilled in the use of specialized aircraft testing equipment and hold current U.S. FAA A&P License or an equivalent foreign license.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic (2)

Diploma for technical / vocational course on automotive / diesel engines with minimum of 2 years experience in repair and overhaul of gas and diesel engines for automobiles and other specialized motorized equipment. Performs mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Must also be skilled in part fabrication. Must possess a valid CNMI driver’s license.

Ground Support Equipment Mechanic Supervisor

Diploma from technical / vocational course on automobile gas / diesel engines with minimum 4 years experience, 2 of the 4 years in a supervisory capacity, in electrical, electronic, pneumatic, hydraulic system and gas / diesel engine maintenance. Plans work and supervises GSE mechanics in performing mechanical and electrical repairs, welding repairs, corrosion treatment and painting on all GSE equipment and vehicles. Must possess a valid CNMI driver’s license.

Lead Passenger Service Agent (3)

High school diploma or its equivalent with 4 years experience in passenger or customer service. Heads shift or work project, as directed by the supervisors, assisting passengers by answering inquiries regarding flight information / booking / reservations, checking in outbound passengers and luggage and assisting them in boarding flights, assisting inbound passengers, and through immigration and customs. Must be computer literate with excellent communications skills. Must be able to lift 70 lbs. minimum.

Load Planning Specialist

Associates degree with 3 years of aircraft ramp operation experience with specific airline certification as a load planner. Ensures that aircraft load is distributed and secured in accordance with aircraft weight and balance requirements, ensuring that the aircrafts operational or structural limitations are not exceeded. Must be computer literate and can perform manual weight and balance calculations.

Passenger Service Manager

AA / AS degree with 8 years of progressive airline passenger service experience, with 3 of 8 years in supervisory capacity. Directs and coordinates airline station activities to provide passenger services for scheduled flight operations; liaises with client airlines. Must be knowledgeable with FAA, ICAO, IATA, TSA and CBP, local airport and airline regulations.

CLOSING DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2012
For inquiries, contact the Human Resources Office at 288-0360.
Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

HR OFFICER (1)

Requires: Associate Degree in Human Resource or Business Management with at least 4 years of HR experience in the Recruitment, Employee Relations and Compensation and Benefits functions. Must be knowledgeable of local and federal employment laws and proficient in MS Office applications especially Excel and Power Point. Ability to speak or understand Chinese Mandarin is an advantage.

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

REPORTER: Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office at the 2nd Floor JP Center Building, Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, October 1, 2012.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

CORPORATE PARALEGAL OFFICER: Bachelor’s degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office at the 2nd Floor JP Center Building, Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, October 1, 2012.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd.
is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Asia

Philippines to question priest over ivory trade

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities will question a Roman Catholic priest about ivory smuggling after his collection of ivory religious icons was featured in National Geographic magazine, an investigator said.

Monsignor Cristobal Garcia, who rose to prominence in a Philippine archdiocese despite a U.S. sex abuse case in the 1980s, is quoted in the October issue of the magazine as describing how to bring ivory figurines into the United States.

National Bureau of Investigation officer Sixto Comia said Wednesday that authorities are investigating the origin of ivory icons widely used in the predominantly Roman Catholic country. He said Garcia will be questioned but declined to give details.

An international ban on trade in ivory and elephant tusks has been in effect since 1990. But poaching for the black market is rife and endangering elephant populations.

Customs officials have intercepted more than 10,000 kilograms (22,000 pounds) of elephant tusks in two separate smuggling attempts in 2005 and 2009. A security guard in a government agency where part of the 4,000 kilograms from the 2009 shipment was stolen is facing criminal charges, Comia said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Filipino marines shift from terror to sea disputes

JOLO, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say more than 100 marines have left southern Sulu province, where they helped battle al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants for years, to a western province to help reinforce the country's claims in disputed South China Sea territories. Officials say a significant military force of about 5,000 will remain in Sulu to deal with lingering Abu Sayyaf threats. Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin says the shift is part of a plan for the military to gradually shift from an anti-insurgency role to territorial defense.

Search resumes after ferry sinking off Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers continued to search waters off Indonesian islands Thursday for people reporting missing after a ferry collided with a chemical-carrying ship and sank, killing at least eight people. More than 210 passengers and crew were rescued and eight bodies were pulled from the water, including a 10-year-old girl, after the sinking

Wednesday morning, said Heru Purwanto, an official at Bakauheni port on southern Sumatra. They are believed to have jumped into the sea without life jackets and could not swim, he said. The manifest listed 213 passengers and crew and 78 vehicles on the ferry, but manifests are often unreliable in Indonesia because tickets are sold onboard to passengers who are never registered.

17 killed when bus plunges into river in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police say 17 people died when the bus they were traveling in plunged into a river in western India. The bus was crossing the Purna river in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra state Wednesday morning when the accident took place. The area is 650 kilometers (400 miles) north of state capital Mumbai. Head Constable Surendra Mahaske says at least 10 passengers were injured. The cause was not immediately clear because the driver was among those killed. Mahaske says the bus had at least 40 passengers and villagers helped the survivors out of the river.

World

Netanyahu brings fears about Iran to UN

By ARON HELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will make his case against Iran before the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, arguing that time is quickly running out to stop the Islamic Republic from becoming a nuclear power and the threat of force must be seriously considered.

His demand that President Barack Obama declare "red lines" that would trigger an American attack on Iran's nuclear facilities has been rejected in Washington and sparked a public rift between the two leaders.

Netanyahu claims international diplomatic efforts and economic sanctions have failed. His time at the U.N. podium gives him an opportunity in front of the international community to press his case once again, perhaps in a final plea before Israel takes matters into its own hands. Israeli leaders have issued a series of

Rebels strike Syrian power center with car bombs

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels struck deep in the fortress-like inner sanctum of President Bashar Assad's rule Wednesday in Damascus, detonating two car bombs that engulfed the army headquarters in flames.

The suicide bombings and subsequent gun battles in the Syrian capital killed at least five people, including a re-



In this Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012 file photo, a visitor looks at portraits of Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during the exhibition "faces of power" by Greek photo artist Platon Antoniou, shown at the Photokina 2012 in Cologne, Germany.

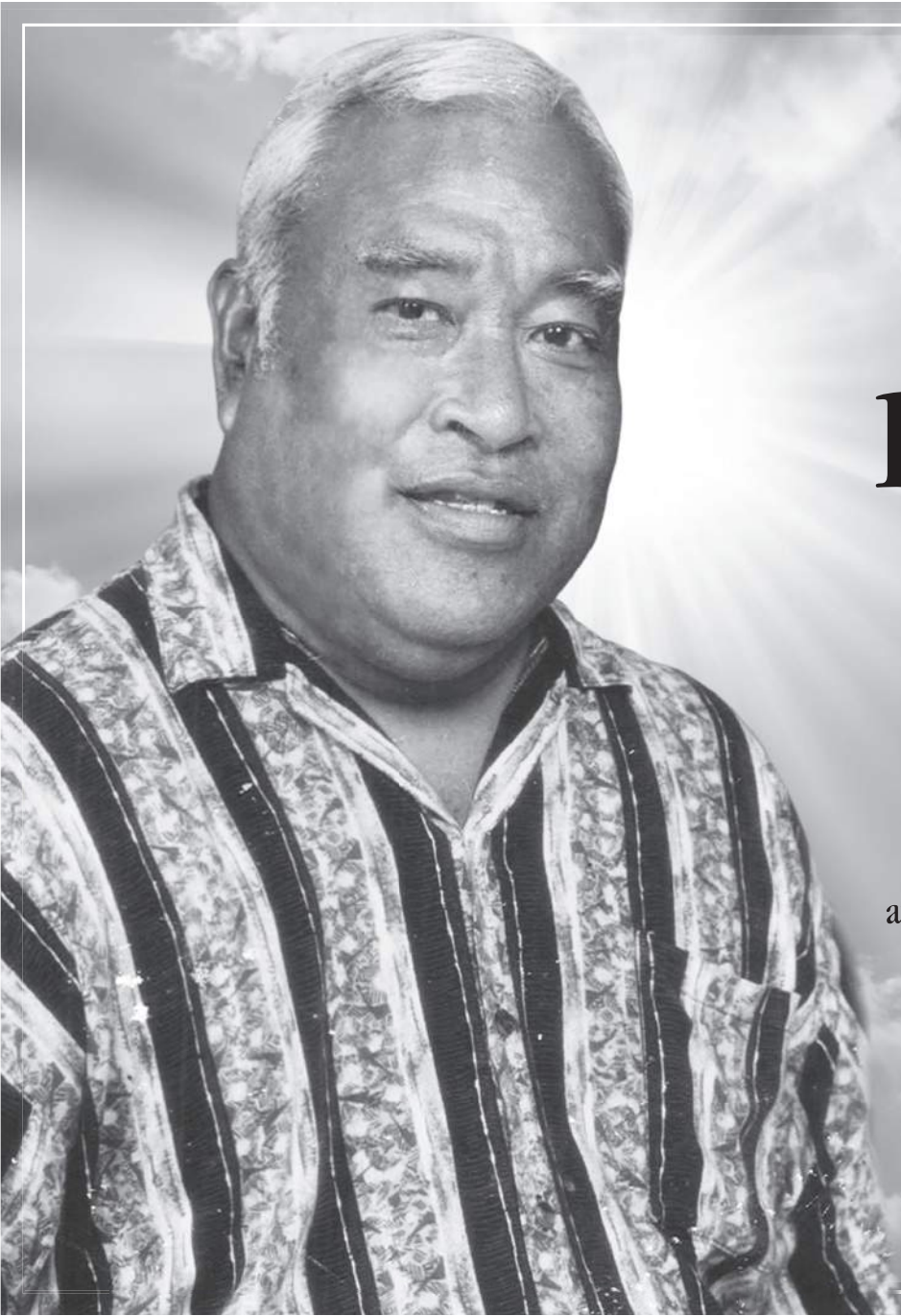
porter for Iranian TV. The carefully orchestrated attacks highlighted the regime's growing vulnerability, even as the 18-month battle to bring down Assad is locked in a stalemate.

International diplomacy has failed to stop the bloodshed.

Making his debut on the global stage at the United Na-

tions, Egypt's new President Mohammed Morsi said he will not rest until Syria's civil war is brought to an end. He called it the "tragedy of the age" and one that "we all must end."

Morsi has launched an "Islamic Quartet" of regional powers to seek an end to the violence, but he has not offered a specific plan of action.



In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of our Beloved

Dakasy David F. Billy

Wish to humbly express our sincere and heartfelt

“Thank You”

To all our families, relatives, and friends for your thoughtfulness, prayers, and unselfish support which has greatly helped us endure the grief and sorrow of our loss.

GOD BLESS

Seni ach ennetin sufon me menin sia chok pwan mochen sipwe
atoura sefani ach ennetin kapasen kinisou ngeni ami atongeach chon fonuach
Chuuk mi nonom won fonuach Saipan ren netip tong me tipeew
fang ami fansoun fiti kich non ach netipeta.

Kinisou Chapur Seni

Billy Family

Off The Wall

Dog quickly takes in, nurses stray kitten in Minn.

JORDAN, Minn. (AP)—A Minnesota woman says she was shocked when her small dog began caring for an abandoned kitten, then started producing milk

and nursing the fuzzy gray stray to health.

Pat Weber says the kitten was days old when her grandson found it in the family's barn

in early September in Jordan, about 40 miles southwest of Minneapolis.

She says the 2-inch-long kitten was "ice cold." But she felt it move, so she wrapped the kitten in a warm towel. Then it began meowing—and her 4-year-old Pekingese perked up.

The tawny pooch named Mittens began licking the kitten, who nuzzled in and began suckling. Mittens hadn't had puppies in two years, yet she eventually began producing milk. She's been nursing the kitten ever since.

Weber calls it a miracle.

AP
Mittens, a 4-year-old Pekingese, nurses Bootsie, a stray kitten, on Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, in Jordan, Minn.



41-pound cat named Skinny is up for adoption in Texas

RICHARDSON, Texas (AP)—Don't be fooled by the name: Skinny the cat is one hefty feline. And all 41 pounds of her needs a home.

A Dallas-area animal shelter has cared for the 5-year-old orange tabby since getting a call about a stray in a yard about a week ago.

Kim Chapin with Richardson Animal Services said Friday that Skinny's "very sweet"—and the largest cat she's seen in

21 years with the shelter.

Not surprising. U.S. government growth charts show Skinny weighs about as much as the average 4-year-old child.

Chapin says Skinny appears healthy except for being overweight and likely having diabetes. Blood tests have been ordered.

Chapin says somebody apparently had been caring for the cat but officials aren't sure who owned the huge kitty.



AP

This photo provided by Kim Chapin shows a 41-pound fat cat named Skinny at the Richardson, Texas, Animal Services shelter on Friday, Sept. 21, 2012.

In Celebration of His New Life Robert Jason Santos Deleon Guerrero

Born: to Life on August 24, 1976

Call to Eternal Life: Sunday, September 23, 2012

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Spouse: Jennifer Lee Quitugua Cabrera Deleon Guerrero
Children: Anthony Noah, Robert Daniel, Neil Lee and Isabella Marie
Parents: Florencio Bobby Pan Tenorio Deleon Guerrero
Luise Lorraine Camacho Santos Deleon Guerrero

Maternal Grandparents: Maria Borja Camacho Santos

Brothers/Sisters: Caryn Mae DLG & Don Eric Antonio, Florence Lucille Santos Deleon Guerrero, Noel Jerome & Jenny Elisa Noisom Deleon Guerrero & Family, Lani Lorraine S. Deleon Guerrero & Joshua T. Sasamoto & Family, Rodney Gregory Santos Deleon Guerrero, Sheena Lin Santos Deleon Guerrero, Derek Ike Santos Deleon Guerrero, Daryl John Santos Deleon Guerrero, & Christine Marie C. & Roland D. Sablan & Family

Parents-in-Law: Antonio Del Rosario Cabrera & Agnes Toves Quitugua Cabrera

Brother/Sisters-in-Laws: Gina Mae Quitugua Cabrera, Adelaila Maria C. & Melvin H. Manahane, Nina Lyn Quitugua Cabrera & Anthony Noah Quitugua Cabrera

In his new life, he now joins his loved ones:

- Herman Jose Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero, *paternal grandfather*
- Maria Julian Camacho Tenorio Deleon Guerrero, *paternal grandmother*
- Ignacio Concepcion Santos, *maternal grandfather*
- Neil Lee Santos Deleon Guerrero, *brother*
- Maria Santos Deleon Guerrero, *sister*

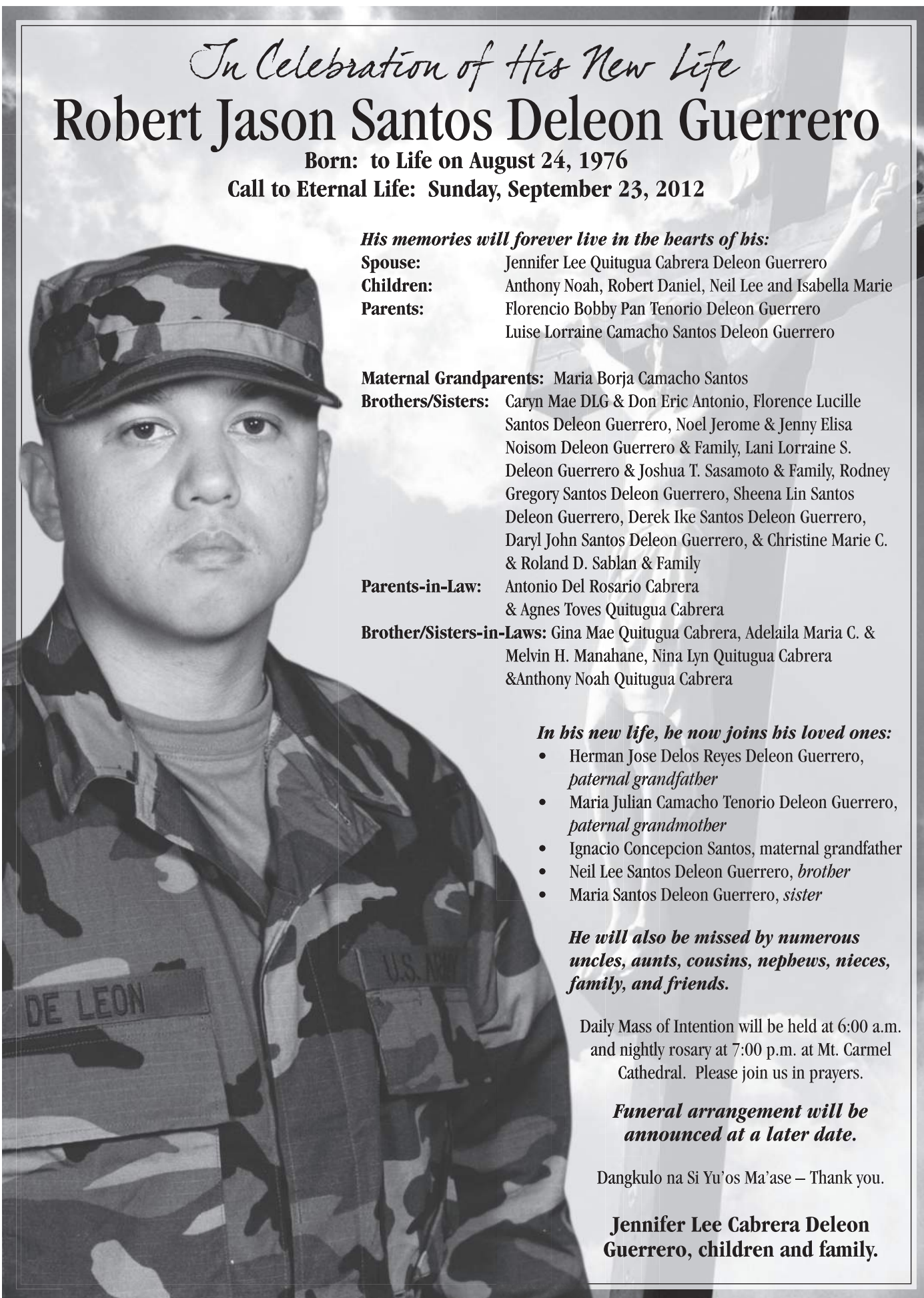
He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, family, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention will be held at 6:00 a.m. and nightly rosary at 7:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Please join us in prayers.

Funeral arrangement will be announced at a later date.

Dangkulo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase — Thank you.

Jennifer Lee Cabrera Deleon Guerrero, children and family.



OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Lottery luck strikes 3x for one Norwegian family

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Luck can strike more than once. A family from western Norway has hit the lottery jackpot for the third time in six years when the son won more than 12 million kroner (\$2 million) earlier this month. He added to the successes of his father and his sister, who had also picked seven correct numbers to bring in winnings of more than 8 million kroner each in 2006 and 2010. The Norsk Tipping AS lottery company said Tuesday it has had cases when one person has won the lottery twice but that the teenager's recent success was Norway's first reported occurrence of three members of the same family separately winning the lottery. The company

was looking into working out the mathematical odds of the family's six-year lucky streak.

Ga. jeweler: Buy a diamond, get free hunting rifle

ATLANTA (AP)—A jeweler in metro Atlanta is adding some bang to the bling. Under a new promotion, customers who buy a diamond worth \$2,499 or more from D. Geller and Son will get a voucher for a free hunting rifle. Owner Mike Geller told WSB-TV that he got the idea after seeing a similar offer at a Missouri car dealership. He said many of his customers are hunters. Geller's stores are not handing out rifles at the counter. Customers must go to a local gun dealer to redeem the voucher and follow all laws governing the purchase of firearms.

Science & Technology

Barnes & Noble launches new Nook HD

NEW YORK (AP)—Barnes & Noble is rolling out two new versions of its Nook tablet with sleek new hardware and a sharper high-definition screen. The bookseller's move heightens the already intense tablet wars heading into the holiday season.

Barnes & Noble said Wednesday that its new Nook HD will come in two sizes, one with a 7-inch screen (measured diagonally), starting at \$199, and one with a new 9-inch diagonal screen, called the Nook HD+, starting at \$269.

In addition to the new HD screen and a lighter body, Barnes & Noble is also increasing the services the Nook offers, adding a video purchase and rental service, allowing users to maintain different "profiles" and making it easier to browse titles in its book and magazine stores.

New York-based Barnes & Noble, the largest traditional U.S. bookseller, has invested heavily in its Nook e-reader and e-books. In its most recent fiscal quarter, sales of digital content surged 46 percent, but revenue from de-



AP
This undated image provided by Barnes & Noble shows one of the two new Nook tablets the company will be releasing in the fall of 2012.

vices dropped partly due to lower prices. Nook prices in the May-July period were about 23 percent lower than a year ago.

The company is seeking to offset tough competition from online retailers such as Amazon.com, as consumers increasingly move away from traditional books and DVDs to electronic books and streaming video.

The Nook HD is an upgrade to the hardware and services offered by its previous tablets, the Nook Tablet and Nook Color, which Barnes & Noble is phasing out. The company will continue to sell its smaller black-and-white e-reader, called the Nook Simple Touch, for \$99, and a backlit Nook Simple Touch for \$139. The Nook HD runs on Google's Android 4.0 system and includes Barnes & Noble's own app store and browser.

Tablets are -once again- expected to be hot items this holiday. The new Nooks come on the heels of Amazon.com's announcement earlier this month that it will offer four new varieties of its Kindle, including a high definition version of its Kindle Fire tablet with an 8.9-inch diagonal screen, which starts at \$299. That compares with Apple Inc.'s iPad with a 9.7-inch diagonal screen and \$499 starting price.

Apple's iPad is the most popular tablet, and that is not expected to change. Seven out of every 10 tablets sold in the second quarter were iPads, according to IHS iSuppli. Meanwhile Amazon.com has a 4.2 percent share of the tablet market, while Barnes & Noble has a 1.9 percent share, according to iSuppli.

Even so, the category is growing rapidly. An estimated 112.5 million Americans, one-third of U.S. adults, are expected to have tablets by 2016, according to Forrester Research.

And tablet makers are jockeying to gain share on Apple. On specs alone, the new Nook presents a tough choice for consumers seeking a cheap option to the iPad this holiday, analysts say.

HOW THE NOOK HD STACKS UP

NOOK HD

Maker: Barnes & Noble Inc.
Price: \$199 for 8 gigabytes of storage; \$229 for 16 gigabytes
Screen size: 7-inches at the diagonal
Display resolution: 1440 x 900 pixel resolution
Software: Android 4.0 OS
Storage: 8 to 16 gigabytes, and expandable memory with a microSD card
Thickness: .43 inches
Weight: 11.1 oz
Processor: Dual-Core 1.3 GHz OMAP4470
Battery life: Up to 10.5 hours of reading and up to 9 hours of video
Connectivity: Wi-Fi
Camera: No camera

NOOK HD+

Maker: Barnes & Noble Inc.
Price: \$269 for 16 gigabytes of storage; \$299 for 32 gigabytes
Screen size: 9 inches at the diagonal
Display resolution: 1920 x 1280 pixel resolution
Software: Android 4.0 OS
Storage: 16 to 32 gigabytes, and expandable memory with a microSD card
Thickness: .45 inches
Weight: 18.2 oz
Processor: Dual-Core 1.5 GHz OMAP4470
Battery life: Up to 10 hours of reading and up to 9 hours of video
Connectivity: Wi-Fi
Camera: No camera

KINDLE FIRE HD

Maker: Amazon.com Inc.
Price: \$199 for 16 gigabytes, \$249 for 32 gigabytes
Screen size: 7 inches at the diagonal
Display resolution: 1280 x 800 pixel resolution
Software: Android 4.0
Storage: 16 or 32 gigabytes.
Thickness: .4 inches
Weight: 13.9 oz
Processor: Dual-core 1.2GHz OMAP4460
Battery life: 11 hours continuous use
Connectivity: Wi-Fi
Camera: Front facing camera

KINDLE FIRE HD 8.9 INCHES

Maker: Amazon.com Inc.
Price: \$299 for 16 gigabytes, \$369 for 32 gigabytes, \$499 for 4G LTE service
Screen size: 8.9 inches at the diagonal
Display resolution: 1920 x 1200 pixel resolution
Software: Android 4.0
Storage: 16 or 32 gigabytes, or 32 or 64 gigabytes on 4G device
Thickness: .35 inches
Weight: 20 oz
Processor: Dual-core, 1.5GHz OMAP4470
Battery life: N/A
Connectivity: Wi-Fi, or 4G LTE data service
Camera: Front facing camera

IPAD

Maker: Apple Inc.
Price: \$499 to \$829
Screen size: 9.7 inches at the diagonal
Display resolution: 2048 x 1536 pixel resolution
Software: Apple
Storage: 16, 32 or 64 gigabytes
Thickness: .37 inches
Weight: 1.44 lbs
Processor: Dual-core Apple A5X
Battery life: Up to 10 hours of web use on Wi-Fi, watching video, or listening to music
Connectivity: Wi-Fi or 3G data service
Camera: Front and back facing camera

First Year Death Anniversary

We the family of the late,

† Joseph Dela Cruz Camacho

Would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved's passage unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be offered in Kristo Rai church at 6:00 in the morning, beginning Monday, October 01, 2012 to Tuesday, October 09, 2012.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From Martha C. Camacho, Children & Family

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Life & Style

‘Moon River’ crooner Andy Williams dies at 84

BRANSON, Mo. (AP)—For the older—OK, squarer—side of the generation gap, Andy Williams was part of the soundtrack of the 1960s and ‘70s, with easy-listening hits like “Moon River,” the “Love Story” theme and “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” from his beloved Christmas TV specials.

The singer known for his wholesome, middle-America appeal was the antithesis of the counterculture.

“The old cliché says that if you can remember the 1960s, you weren’t there,” Williams once recalled. “Well, I was there all right, but my memory of them is blurred—not by any drugs I took but by the relentless pace of the schedule I set myself.”

The 84-year-old entertainer, who died Tuesday night at his Branson home following a yearlong battle with bladder cancer, outlasted many of the decade’s rock stars and fellow crooners such as Frank Sinatra and Perry Como. He remained on the charts into the 1970s and continued to perform into his 80s.

Williams became a major star in 1956, the same year as Elvis Presley, with the Sinatra-like swing number “Canadian Sunset.” For a time, he was pushed into such Presley imitations as “Lips of Wine” and the No. 1 smash “Butterfly.”

But he mostly stuck to what he called his “natural style” and kept it up throughout his career. In 1970, when even Sinatra had temporarily retired, Williams was in the top 10 with the theme from “Love Story,” the Oscar-winning tearjerker. He had 18 gold



AP
In this Aug. 5, 1966 photo provided by the Las Vegas News Bureau, Andy Williams performs at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

records, three platinum and five Grammy award nominations.

Williams was also the first host of the live Grammy awards telecast and hosted the show for seven consecutive years, begin-

ning in 1971.

Movie songs became a specialty, including his signature “Moon River.” The long-ing Johnny Mercer-Henry Mancini ballad was his most famous song, even though he never released it as a single because his record company feared such lines as “my huckleberry friend” were too confusing and old-fashioned for teens.

The song was first performed by Audrey Hepburn in the cherished 1961 film “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” but Mancini thought “Moon River” ideal for Williams, who recorded it in “pretty much one take” and also sang it at the 1962 Academy Awards. Although “Moon River” was covered by countless artists and became a hit single for Jerry Butler, Williams made the song his personal brand. In fact, he insisted on it.

“When I hear anybody else sing it, it’s all I can do to stop myself from shouting at the television screen, ‘No! That’s my song!’” Williams wrote in his 2009 memoir titled, fittingly, “Moon River and Me.”

At a Wednesday matinee at Williams’ Moon River Theatre in Branson, a performer told the crowd that Williams would have wanted the show to go on, and it did. The first show after his death included a moving video of him performing “Can’t Take My Eyes Off of You.”

“It was very emotional, very sad,” said Barbara Cox of Atlanta, who came to Branson on vacation. “We’ve lost a great man.”

Because of illness, Williams had not performed in several months.

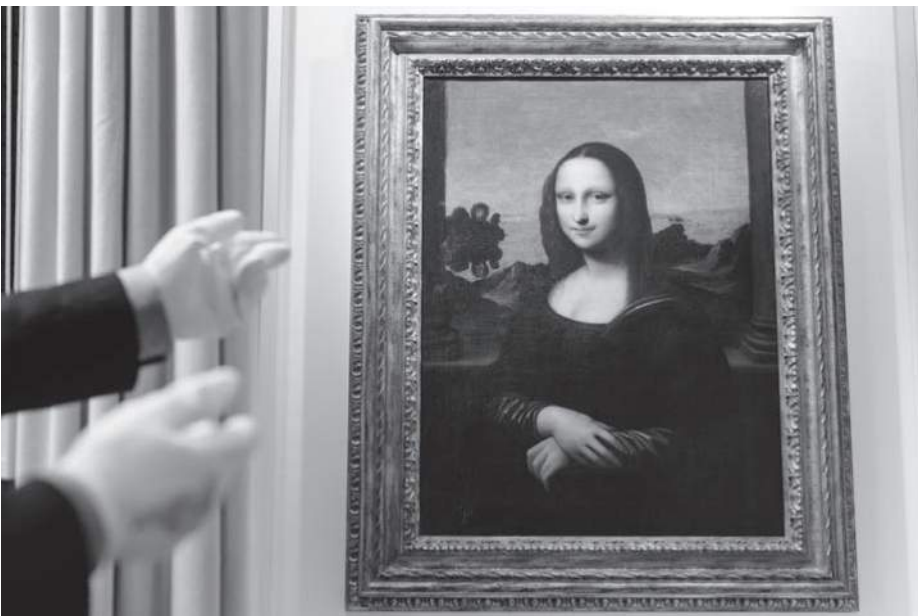
Group claims Da Vinci painted early Mona Lisa work

GENEVA (AP)—A Zurich-based foundation says it will prove to the world Thursday that Leonardo da Vinci painted an earlier version of the Mona Lisa—a claim doubted by at least one expert on the multifaceted Renaissance artist.

The Mona Lisa Foundation, which has been working with the anonymous owners of the “Isleworth Mona Lisa,” says that after 35 years of research, experts believe it predates the famed 16th-century masterpiece by some 11 or 12 years based on regression tests, mathematical comparisons and historical and archival records.

“So far, not one scientific test has been able to disprove that the painting is by Leonardo,” said art historian Stanley Feldman, a foundation member and principal author of a foundation book entitled “Mona Lisa: Leonardo’s Earlier Version” to be released Thursday. “We have used methods that were not available to Leonardo 500 years ago.”

“When we do a very elementary mathematical test, we have discovered that all of the elements of the two bodies—the two people, the two sitters—are in exactly the same place,” Feldman told The Associated Press by phone. “It strikes us that in order for that to be so accurate, so meticulously



AP
A painting attributed to Leonardo da Vinci and representing Mona Lisa is seen during a preview presentation in a vault in Onex near Geneva, Wednesday, September 26, 2012.

exact, only the person who did one did the other ... It’s an extraordinary revelation in itself, and we think it’s valid.”

The Isleworth painting—likewise a portrait of a young woman with an enigmatic smile—is slightly larger, was painted on

canvas and has brighter colors than the famed Louvre Museum masterpiece painted on wood. The posture, folded hand positions, faces, expressions and clothing are similar, while the landscape in the background is different.

Philippines’ Oscar hope is drama on aging gay man

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An independent drama that explores the loneliness and missed opportunities of an ailing, 70-year-old gay man is testing Philippine sensibilities about sexuality and hoping to advance in the Academy Awards’ foreign-language film competition next year.

“Bwakaw,” or “Voracious,” has received positive reviews and local awards and is doing the rounds of international film festivals in Toronto, New York, Hawaii and Tokyo.

Writer and director Jun Robles Lana says the movie is named after a stray dog with a voracious appetite for life that has a bond

with the main character, Rene. Bwakaw’s zest for life contrasts with Rene’s grumpy disposition.

Rene came out of the closet in his twilight years, thinks it is too late for love and only awaits his own death. He has made a will and labeled his few possessions to be given away to friends. He even bought a coffin at a funeral home’s closing-out sale.

But when Bwakaw dies after an illness, Rene, played by veteran actor Eddie Garcia, finds new appreciation for life. “It’s the dog that basically teaches him to live life to the full-

est,” Lana said in an interview Wednesday.

“It’s really more about loneliness, although you can’t help that some people or critics are branding it a gay film simply because the character is gay, but that’s really beside the point,” he said.

Lana admits that while Filipinos are generally gay-friendly—the most popular movie star is Vice Ganda, an out-and-out gay comedian—local mainstream audiences might not be too receptive to a serious take on homosexuality in the conservative and predominantly Roman Catholic society.

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Hotel Transylvania 3D

Friday		7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Hotel Transylvania 2D

Friday	4:25		
Saturday	4:25		
Sunday	4:25		
Monday thru Thursday	4:25		

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



DREDD 3D

Friday		7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	7:15	9:45
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		7:15	

Cast: Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby, Lena Headey
Genre: Science fiction, Action • Rated R



Trouble With The Curve

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05	

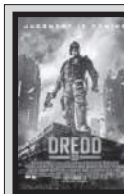
Cast: Clint Eastwood, Amy Adams
Genre: Drama • Rated PG13



House At The End Of The Street

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, Elisabeth Shue
Genre: Thriller • Rated PG13



DREDD 2D

Friday	4:15		
Saturday	4:15		
Sunday	4:15		
Monday thru Thursday	4:15		

Cast: Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby, Lena Headey
Genre: Science fiction, Action • Rated R



Finding Nemo 3D

Friday		7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		7:00	

Cast: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres
Genre: Children's/family • Rated G



Resident Evil: Retribution 2D

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30	

Cast: Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez
Action • Rated R



Finding Nemo 2D

Friday	4:00		
Saturday	4:00		
Sunday	4:00		
Monday thru Thursday	4:00		

Cast: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres
Genre: Children's/family • Rated G



The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton
Genre: Comedy, Drama, Fantasy • Rated PG

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Husband's rear attacks require frontal approach

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 35 years. We have one daughter. My husband has this "thing" about grabbing other women's behinds. He hugs them and then goes in for a grab. It bothers me so much. It hurts my feelings and I have told him so, but he still does it.

Men have told me they don't want him touching their wives this way. Others have said it's disrespectful to me. He says he will try to stop doing it. Try? That doesn't set well with me.

What do you think about this? Am I overreacting? After all these years, I just don't know what to think.

HANDS OFF IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.



Dear Abby

DEAR HANDS OFF: I agree that pinching other women's bottoms is disrespectful (unless you're in Italy, where it's the norm). It appears you have spent 35 years married to an unrepentant lecher. I'd think that by now he would have trouble hugging any woman twice if she saw him with arms outstretched.

Because you can't convince your husband to change his ways, try this: When a man complains about your husband's misbehavior, tell him he should deliver that message directly to your spouse. Perhaps that will get the point across.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently married a wonderful man, and I like my in-laws very much. They're nice, welcoming people and we get along well. There's just one problem: They are the biggest enablers I have ever met!

With my husband it isn't a big deal because he's very self-sufficient. On the other hand, his 30-year-old brother has lived with them for three years. He is jobless and has a drinking problem. His parents don't encourage him to look for work. They give him an allowance, pay all his court costs and drive him around because he got a DUI. They even pay his cellphone bill.

What is my place in all of this? Should I say anything? My fear is that when my husband's parents die, his brother will become OUR problem.

LOOKING AHEAD IN COLORADO

DEAR LOOKING AHEAD: Don't say anything to your husband's parents. The pattern they are following is one that was set long ago, and nothing you can say will change it. It may, however, cause serious hard feelings.

The person you should talk to is your husband, so that well in advance of his parents' demise, you will be in agreement about his brother finally taking responsibility for himself or suffering the consequences of his actions.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I love my co-workers, but several of them have an aggravating habit of walking into my office, uninvited, while I'm eating lunch at my desk. They then proceed to tell me their latest news, joke or war story.

Abby, those of us who eat at our desks do it so we can keep working and be ready to respond to work-related contacts as they come in, NOT to socialize. Besides, isn't it just as rude to interrupt someone while they're eating as it is while they're talking? I wish my beloved co-workers would save it for the water cooler.

"SANDWICHED" IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SANDWICHED: I don't think it's rude. But because YOU do, it's up to you to tell your well-meaning co-workers that when you're working at your desk, you'd prefer not to be interrupted because it breaks your concentration. If you speak up nicely, I'm sure they won't love you any less, and then you will love them even more.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Girl who called self 'Mrs. Bieber' dies of cancer

BOSTON (AP)—A 6-year-old Massachusetts girl whose love for Justin Bieber encouraged physicians and nurses at a Boston hospital to organize a pretend wedding to the pop star as she battled a rare brain cancer has died.

The family of Avalanna Routh—who called herself Mrs. Bieber—said on their Twitter account that she died Wednesday morning. "Oh Avalanna, the brightest star—you took our hearts with you, our greatest Love," the family wrote.

During the pretend wedding, Avalanna held a yellow, green and purple bouquet of flowers, wore a T-shirt that said "Future Mrs. Bieber" and stood next to his portrait under a banner that declared them "Just Married." That sparked a social media campaign to help her meet the singer.

Bieber later arranged for the girl to meet him in New York, where they spent a couple of hours together before he tweeted that the experience was inspiring and the best thing he's ever done.

"... she was AWESOME! Feeling really inspired now! (hash)MrsBieber," he tweeted.

Bieber took to Twitter to mourn the death of Avalanna.

"just got the worst news ever. one of the greatest spirits i have ever known is gone," Bieber tweeted. "please pray for her



This June 15, 2010 photograph provided by the Dana Farber Cancer Institute shows Avalanna Roth at the Boston hospital.

family and for her."

"RIP Avalanna. i love you," he said.

Avalanna suffered from an atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumor, a fast-growing tumor of the brain and spinal cord that usually occurs in young chil-

Ed Norton to play 'Words With Friends' for charity

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Look out, Alec Baldwin.

Edward Norton, Jonah Hill, Snoop Dogg and several other stars are slated to play in a celebrity tournament of the popular online game "Words With Friends" for charity. The celebs will begin facing off against each other in matches of Zynga's Scrabble-like word-build game on Thursday.

Norton, who is playing for the Maasai Wilderness Con-

servation Fund, is confident that he will dominate the tournament, which also includes such celebrity players as Eva Longoria, Kristen Bell and John Legend—but not Baldwin—vying for \$500,000 in prize money for their charities from American Express.

"I have to give myself timeouts on 'Words With Friends,'" said Norton in a telephone interview Monday. "I've gone through phases where I'm like,

'What am I doing? This is much too much of my day.'"

"Words With Friends" players will be able to join their favorite stars' teams during the "Words With Friends Celebrity Challenge," as well as watch the celebrity matchups online and donate to their charities through Norton's fundraising site, CrowdRise.com.

"We had the idea to do a celebrity tournament some time ago when it became apparent that the game was a hit among

celebrities," said Travis Boatman, senior vice president of mobile at Zynga Inc. "It seems like everyone from Katie Couric to Snoop Lion is into the game. It's really inspirational for the team to see how 'Words With Friends' has become part of the cultural mainstream, and I think it has struck a chord because it's not just a game, it's a way for people to connect and keep in touch with each other."

Rowling not ruling out another Harry Potter book

LONDON (AP)—J.K. Rowling plans to return to writing for young people—and the author says she doesn't rule out another book set in Harry Potter's magical world.

Rowling became the world's most successful living writer with her seven novels about a boy who discovers that he is a wizard and is pitched into battle against the forces of evil.

Rowling's first book for adults, "The Casual Vacancy," is being published Thursday, five years after the release of the last volume in the Potter saga.

The 47-year-old author told the BBC that her next book would be "for slightly younger children than the Potter books."

And she said that while "where Harry's story is concerned, I'm done," she was considering a new story set in the same universe.

"I don't want to go mechanically back into that world and pick up

a load of odds and ends and glue them together and say, 'Here we go, we can sell this,'" Rowling said in an interview broadcast Wednesday. "It would make a mockery of what those books were to me.

"But ... if I did have a great idea for something else, I probably would do it. I am very averse to the prequel-sequel idea. A sidestep could maybe ... well, we'll see."

Rowling also acknowledged that she wished she had had more time to work on a couple of the Potter novels—she did not name them—which had been written "on the run."

"And I read them, and I think 'Oh God, maybe I'll go back and do a director's cut,'" Rowling said. "I don't know."

"The Casual Vacancy" is the story of a local election that exposes deep rivalries and dark secrets in a seemingly picture-perfect English village.

Mr. Sexy Back tries to bring Myspace back

NEW YORK (AP)—"Who am I to say I want you back? When you were never mine to give away."

Those are the opening lines of a song that accompanies a "New Myspace" promotional video. The once-mighty social network is trying to stage yet another comeback with the help of Justin Timberlake. The new site, for which people can request an invitation, looks a bit like an entertainment-focused version of Pinterest, with a dash of Twitter and Facebook thrown in.

But Myspace has tried redesigns before, to no avail. Will it work this time?

"If you break my heart a second time, I might never be the same," continues the song, "Heartbeat," by the group JJ-AMZ.

From the sound of it, Myspace wants to win the hearts and minds of tech-savvy hipsters.



Timberlake

Founded in 2003 and initially a fast-rising star, Myspace attracted mostly teenagers and twentysomethings, offering them a place to express themselves online. It peaked in 2008 with some 76 million U.S. visitors in October. The site lost its footing

as the fun of customizing profile pages began to bore its users and the site's heavy use of banner advertisements slowed the speed at which pages loaded. At the same time, people were already migrating to Facebook, which counted users 35 and older among its fastest-growing demographic.

The company's new promotional video offers a 2-minute and 18-second peek into a slick, image-heavy site. The site's much cleaner look is a stark contrast to the old Myspace, which users often derided as messy and cluttered.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII,
Plaintiff,

vs.

ROSLYN C.T. DLGUERRERO and JOSEPH A. DLGUERRERO
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 12-0040

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 12, 2012, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Sugar King II, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot 128 D 36 (formerly known as Lot 018 D 43), containing an area of 595 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00 the original of which was recorded 07 Dec 99 as Document No. 99-2896 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on **Thursday, October 11, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.**, at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, 2nd Floor of D'Torres Building, Garapan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 11th day of September, 2012.

/s/ Sikd Soalabla, Auctioneer
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger
Tel. No.: (670) 235-8060
e-mail: shinesshine2011@live.com
OR joshua.berger711@hotmail.com

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pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of:	FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0400
Z.J.B.S. Minor Child	NOTICE OF HEARING
By:	
Benigno M. Sablan & Mira B. Sablan	
Petitioners.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 15, 2012 at 1:30pm in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2012.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

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Braun homers, Brewers beat Reds, 8-1



CINCINNATI (AP)—

Ryan Braun hit his NL-leading 41st home run on Wednesday night, and Milwaukee kept its wild-card chances flickering with an 8-1 victory over Cincinnati.

Milwaukee moved within 3 1-2 games of St. Louis for the final NL wild-card spot, a long shot that left them with no margin for error. The Cardinals lost 2-0 to Houston.

Shaun Marcum (6-4) went six innings for his first victory since returning from an elbow problem, allowing four hits, including Joey Votto's RBI double.

Norichika Aoki homered to start a three-run third inning off Bronson Arroyo (12-9) and added an RBI double. Braun, the NL's MVP last season as the Brewers won the NL Central, hit a two-run shot in the seventh off Logan Ondrusek.

Jonathan Lucroy also homered and had three hits.

The Reds played all of their healthy regulars even though they have clinched the NL Central.

Braves 3, Marlins 0

In Atlanta, Martin Prado homered and Paul Maholm combined with three relievers on a six-hitter as Atlanta showed no hangover from their champagne celebration after clinching an NL wild-card spot the night before.

The Braves remained four games behind first-place Washington in the NL East. The Nationals beat the Phillies, 8-4.

Prado hit a first-inning homer off Josh Johnson (8-14) and drove in Jose Constanza with a third-inning single. The Braves had only four hits.

Miami has lost six straight and eight of nine.

Maholm (13-10) earned only his second win in his last seven starts. The left-hander gave up five hits with no walks and six strikeouts in 6 2-3 innings.

Chad Durbin recorded the final out in the seventh. Eric O'Flaherty pitched the eighth.

Craig Kimbrel earned his 40th save, matching Jason Motte for the NL lead, with a perfect ninth inning.

Nationals 8, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Bryce Harper hit his 20th homer, Ian Desmond and Kurt Suzuki also connected and Washington moved closer toward winning its first division title since moving to Washington.

The 19-year-old Harper joined Tony Conigliaro as the only teenagers to reach 20 homers in big league history. The Nationals reduced their magic number in the NL East to four, holding a four-game lead over Atlanta, which beat Miami 3-0, with seven remaining.

John Lannan (4-0) gave up two runs and five hits in 5 1-3 innings to win his second start since taking Stephen Strasburg's spot in the rotation.

Milwaukee Brewers' Ryan Braun high-fives Jeff Bianchi (14) after the Brewers defeated the Cincinnati Reds 8-1 in a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, in Cincinnati.

AP



Strasburg, the All-Star righty, was shut down after reaching his innings limit.

The Phillies, who closed within three games of St. Louis for the NL's second wild-card spot following a late push, are on the verge of elimination. The five-time defending NL East champions are 5 1/2 games behind the Cardinals.

Dodgers 8, Padres 2

In San Diego, Matt Kemp had four hits, falling a triple shy of the cycle, and four RBIs as Los Angeles used a rare offensive outburst to keep its slim playoff hopes alive.

Los Angeles, which has scuffled for the better part of a month, remained tied with Milwaukee, 4 1/2 games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild-card berth.

Kemp singled and scored in the first inning, hit a two-run double in the fourth and drove a two-run homer well over the fence in center in the sixth, his 20th. His four hits and four RBIs tied his season highs. In 17 games against San Diego this year, he's hitting .407 with seven homers and 19 RBIs.

The Dodgers won for just the 13th time in 33 games since Aug. 19, the last time they were in first place in the NL West.

Mets 6, Pirates 0

In New York, David Wright broke the Mets' record for hits and Jeremy Hefner bounced back from a horrendous start in a victory that eliminated Pittsburgh from playoff contention.

Ruben Tejada tied a career high with four hits, including two RBI singles, and Scott

Hairston doubled home a run as the Mets took advantage of some shoddy Pittsburgh defense to win for the fifth time in six games.

Jeff Locke (0-3), still searching for his first major league win after nine starts, was chased in the fourth inning.

Tied for the NL Central lead a week after the All-Star game, the Pirates have faded quickly in the second half for the second consecutive year. They have dropped 19 of 25 and must go 5-2 the rest of the way to avoid a 20th straight losing season.

Astros 2, Cardinals 0

In Houston, Bud Norris pitched into the eighth inning for his first win since May 21, and Jose Altuve homered as Houston avoided a sweep.

Norris (6-13) allowed two hits and struck out seven without a walk in 7 1-3 innings to snap a career-long 12-game losing streak which spanned 18 starts in the last National League game in Houston with the Astros moving to the American League West for 2013.

The victory broke a 10-game winning streak for the Cardinals over Houston and cut their lead over Los Angeles and Milwaukee to 3 1-2 games for the second NL wild-card spot after both teams won Wednesday.

Norris hurled the gem despite a tough stretch where he has been slowed by a blister on index finger of his right hand and flu-like symptoms.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 0

In San Francisco, Matt Cain pitched seven innings and had two

hits and an RBI to lead the San Francisco Giants over Arizona.

Brandon Belt added three hits, Pablo Sandoval singled twice and drove in two runs, and Marco Scutaro extended his career-best hitting streak to 14 games while helping Cain to his career-best 16th win.

It's San Francisco's first victory since clinching the NL West division for the second time in three years.

The Giants were the fifth NL team to pitch a shutout Wednesday. The last time there were at least five shutouts in the same league on the same day was Sept. 18, 2003, in the NL, according to STATS LLC.

Cain (16-5) looked sharp in his next-to-last start in the regular season. He scattered four hits and struck out six.

Rockies 6, Cubs 0

In Denver, Drew Pomeranz tossed five scoreless innings for his first win in more than two months and the Colorado Rockies beat Chicago. The game was delayed by rain in the seventh inning for 1 hour, 24 minutes.

Charlie Blackmon homered and Chris Nelson had two hits and two RBIs in the Rockies' third straight win.

Dave Sappelt had two hits for Chicago, which is winless in 15 road games against NL West opponents.

Pomeranz (2-9) had been 0-6 with a 6.84 ERA since the All-Star break. He allowed three hits in his first win since July 6.

Jason Berken (0-2) took the loss.

Tigers 5, Royals 4

In Detroit, Jhonny Peralta

brought home the go-ahead run when Andy Dirks' hard slide broke up a potential inning-ending double play in the eighth inning and the Detroit Tigers beat the Kansas City Royals.

Triple Crown candidate Miguel Cabrera was robbed of a tiebreaking homer in the fifth inning by Alex Gordon's catch above the left-field wall. Detroit, which started the day tied with the Chicago White Sox atop the AL Central for the first time since Sept. 2, found a way to break through the eighth, though.

Delmon Young hit an infield single with one out in the eighth off Kelvin Herrera (4-3) and was replaced by Kelly, who stole second base and took third on Dirks' single.

Alex Avila hit a two-run homer and Austin Jackson had a solo shot in the fourth inning to tie the game.

Orioles 12, Blue Jays 2

In Baltimore, Chris Davis and Manny Machado each connected twice and the Baltimore Orioles tied a team record with seven home runs and stayed within 1 1/2 games of the AL East lead.

The Orioles ended a two-game losing skid against the Blue Jays and remained close to the division-leading New York Yankees, who won 8-2 in Minnesota.

Nate McLouth hit a leadoff shot in the first inning and Jim Thome and Mark Reynolds also homered. Baltimore has hit seven home runs three times, most recently on Aug. 26, 1985.

Davis finished with a career-high five RBIs.

Davis' three-run drive gave the Orioles a five-run inning and finished Carlos Villanueva (7-7).

Indians 6, White Sox 4

In Chicago, the slumping Chicago White Sox fell out of the AL Central lead for the first time in two months, walking 12 batters in a loss to Cleveland.

Chicago, which has lost seven of eight, had been in sole possession or tied at the top every day since July 24. But Detroit moved ahead by a game, beating Kansas City 5-4 with a week left in the regular season.

The White Sox have lost 7 of their last 8 and have seven games remaining—four at home against Tampa Bay and three at Cleveland next week. They'll need to regroup in a hurry.

Shin-Soo Choo had a go-ahead RBI grounder in the seventh off Matt Thornton (4-9) and Vinny Rottino hit his first homer for Cleveland in the eighth off Brett Myers. The Indians—who are 21-50 since the All-Star break—won two of three at U.S. Cellular Field.

Rays 4, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Carlos Pena and Ben Francisco hit back-to-back,

tape-measure homers in the fifth inning on Wednesday night to lead the Tampa Bay Rays to their seventh consecutive victory, 4-2 over the Boston Red Sox.

The Rays remained 3 1-2 games behind Baltimore for second place in the AL East. Tampa Bay began the day three games behind Oakland for the second wild-card spot.

It was the final home game of the season for the Red Sox, and perhaps the last at Fenway Park for Boston manager Bobby Valentine. Hired to inspire a fractious clubhouse after the team went 7-20 last September under Terry Francona, Valentine instead presided over what could be the worst Red Sox team since 1965.

Alex Cobb (10-9) allowed one run on three hits and a walk, striking out five in five innings as the Rays matched their longest winning streak of the season. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 45th save in 47 chances.

Jon Lester (9-14) gave up three runs on four hits and a walk, striking out five in six innings. He didn't allow a hit until Jeff Keppinger singled to left with one out in the fifth, then he gave up back-to-back home runs.

Yankees 8, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, C.C. Sabathia struck out 10 batters over eight innings and New York beat remained 1 1/2 games ahead of Baltimore in the AL East.

The Orioles beat Toronto 12-2 on Wednesday night. The Yankees visit the Blue Jays for four games starting Thursday. Baltimore, after an off day, plays Boston at home this weekend.

Sabathia (14-6) threw 89 of his 118 pitches for strikes. Robinson Cano hit a two-run double and Curtis Granderson added a two-run triple during a six-run third inning against Brian Duensing (4-11), and Sabathia took care of the rest. The burly lefty gave up six hits, two runs and one walk.

Angels 4, Mariners 3

In Anaheim, California, Torii Hunter's RBI singles tied it in the seventh inning and ended it in the ninth, and the Los Angeles Angels rallied to keep pace in the AL wild-card race with their fifth consecutive victory.

Erick Aybar had an early two-run double before Hunter ended it for the Angels (86-69), who remained two games behind Oakland (88-67) after the other three teams in the AL wild-card race all won earlier in the day.

Pinch hitter Maicer Izturis opened the ninth with a single off Stephen Pryor (3-1) and advanced to third on a wild pitch and Peter Bourjos' bunt. Seattle walked rookie Mike Trout to face Hunter, who coolly stroked a single to center.

Ernesto Frieri (4-2) pitched the ninth for the Angels.

NFL reaches tentative agreement with refs



NEW YORK (AP)—So long, replacement refs. The NFL's regular crews will be back on the field starting Thursday night.

After two days of marathon negotiations—and mounting frustration among coaches, players and fans—the NFL and the referees' union announced at midnight Thursday that a tentative agreement had been reached to end a lockout that began in June.

Commissioner Roger Goodell, who was at the bargaining table Tuesday and Wednesday, said the regular officials would work the Browns-Ravens game at Baltimore.

The tentative eight-year deal must be ratified by 51 percent of the union's 121 members. They plan to vote Friday and Saturday in Dallas.

"Welcome back REFS," Buffalo Bills running back C.J. Spiller tweeted shortly after the news broke.

The replacements worked the first three weeks of games, triggering a wave of outrage that threatened to disrupt the rest of the season. After a missed call cost the Green Bay Packers a win on a chaotic final play at Seattle on Monday night, the two sides really got serious.

"We are glad to be getting back on the field for this week's games," referees' union president Scott Green said.

The agreement hinged on working out pension and retirement benefits for the officials, who are part-time employees of the league. The tentative pact calls for their salaries to increase from an average of \$149,000 a year in 2011 to \$173,000 in 2013, rising to \$205,000 by 2019.

Under the proposed deal, the current defined benefit pension plan will remain in place for current officials through the 2016 season or until the official earns 20 years' service. The defined benefit plan will then be frozen.

Retirement benefits will be provided for new hires, and for all officials beginning in 2017, through a defined contribution arrangement. The annual league contribution made on behalf of each game official will begin with an average of more than \$18,000 per official and increase to more than \$23,000

NFL official: 'Grandmoms' could've made right call

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—NFL field judge Boris Cheek said while the league and the regular officials are meeting, he doesn't know if the latest controversial call Monday night in the Green Bay-Seattle game will expedite the end of the lockout.

He said it wasn't a tough call, "our grandmoms sitting at home can probably make that call."

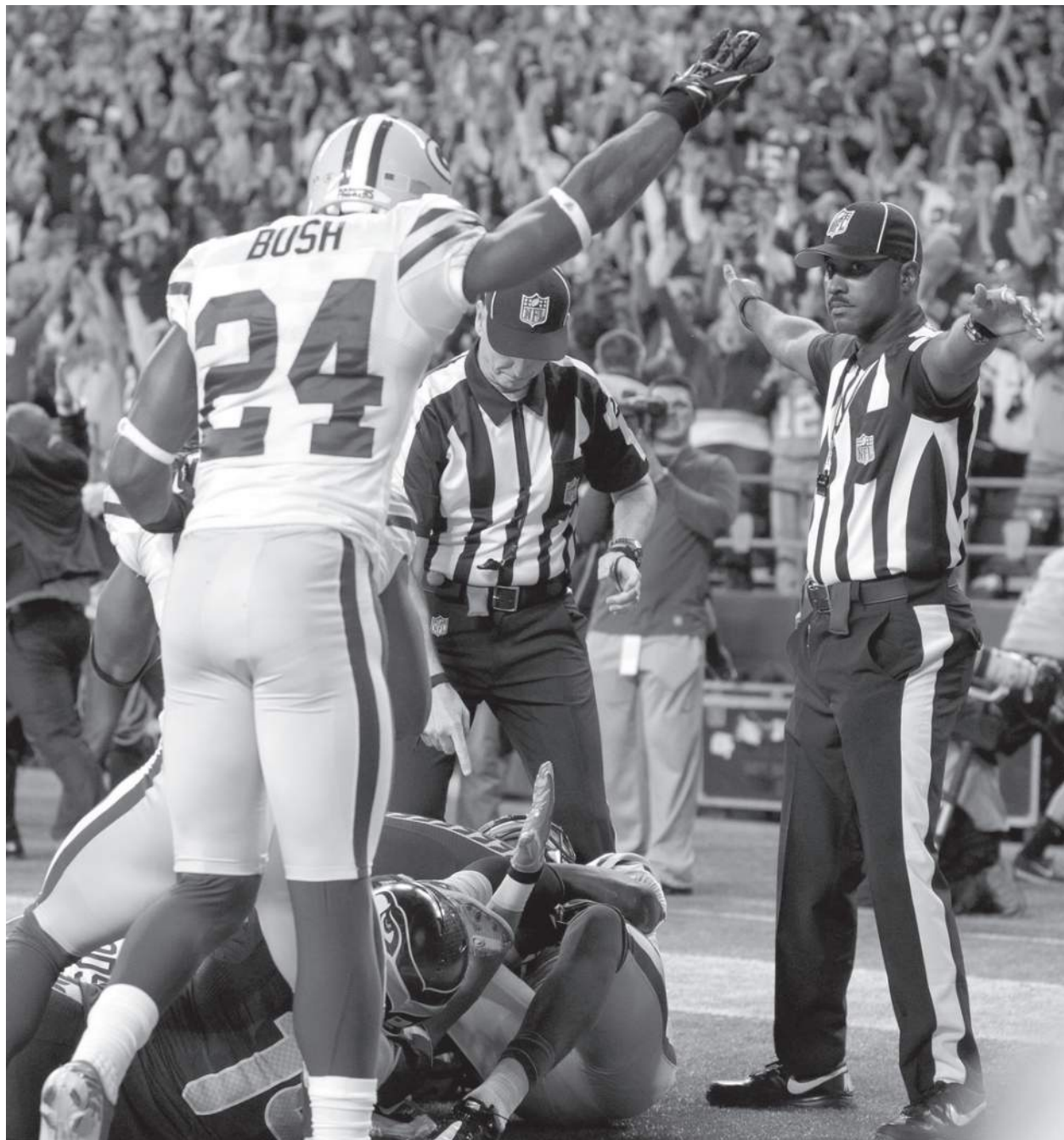
Cheek, an NFL official for 17 years, says the ruling on the game-winning touchdown by Golden Tate was the result of a breakdown in mechanics and communication by the replacement officials.

The call has raised hopes the regular officials will be back soon.

Cheek said the lockout is not "good for the game of football" and the regular officials "want to go to back to work, but it has to be the right deal for 121 guys."

"I've not heard anything at this point," Cheek said when asked if the lockout was nearing an end. "We all want to get back to work and do what we love doing. We're taking it minute by minute and day by day and we're trying to be professionals. ... All I've heard is that they're meeting."

The sense of urgency to get the regu-



Officials decide on a call for the final play of the game as Green Bay Packers' Jarrett Bush (24) reacts in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, in Seattle.

per official in 2019.

Beginning with the 2013 season, the NFL will have the option of hiring a number of officials on a full-time basis to work year round, including on the field. The NFL will have the option to retain additional officials for training and development purposes, and may assign

those additional officials to work NFL games. The number of additional officials will be determined by the NFL.

"As you know, this has to be ratified and we know very little about it, but we're excited to be back. And ready," referee Ed Hochuli told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "

tion of how valuable regular officials—who have proven experience working NFL games—are to the integrity of the league.

"Honestly, those (replacement officials) are in a tough situation out there," Cheek said. "There's no way. ... I mean, it's tough to keep up with the speed of this game with such short training. That is tough. I mean really tough. And that was a big play. But that is why we get paid. We get paid to make those calls. When you are in that arena you have to make that call and make it right."

"That is what distinguishes guys who work Division III, Division I and the NFL."

He hopes that soon all of this talk of a lockout will be a thing of the past and that negotiators can work out the details and he can get back to work.

As of Wednesday afternoon, however, he had not received any word on the possibility of working an NFL game this weekend.

"I don't know what is motivating everyone," Cheek said of the negotiations. "I don't know. I'm not privy to that information. But it's not good for the game of football and the NFL."

And I think that's the most important message—that we're ready."

Replacement refs aren't new to the NFL. They worked the first week of games in 2001 before a deal was reached. But those officials came from the highest level of college football; the current replacements do not. Their ability to call fast-moving NFL games drew mounting criticism through Week 3, climaxing last weekend, when ESPN analyst Jon Gruden called their work "tragic and comical."

Belichick fined 50K, Kyle Shanahan 25K by NFL

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL fined New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick \$50,000 and Washington Redskins assistant Kyle Shanahan \$25,000 on Wednesday for their conduct toward replacement officials.

The fines come as the league and its referees' union were meeting amid reports they were close to ending the lockout of the regular officials.

Belichick grabbed an official's arm at the end of Sunday night's game after the Ravens kicked a winning field goal. Shanahan was cited by the league for "abuse of officials" in Washington's loss to Cincinnati.

"It was inappropriate for me to contact the official. I take responsibility for what happened," Belichick said in statement released by the team. "I accept the discipline and I apologize for the incident Sunday night in Baltimore."

Shanahan, the son of Redskins coach Mike Shanahan, was called for un-

Those comments came during "Monday Night Football," with Seattle beating Green Bay 14-12 on a desperation pass into the end zone on the final play. Packers safety M.D. Jennings had both hands on the ball in the end zone, and when he fell to the ground in a scrum, both Jennings and Seahawks receiver Golden Tate had their arms on the ball.

The closest official to the play, at the back of the end zone, signaled for the clock to stop, while another official at the sideline ran in and then signaled touchdown.

The NFL said in a statement Tuesday that the touchdown pass should not have been overturned—but acknowledged Tate should have been called for offensive pass interference before the catch. The league also said there was no indisputable evidence to reverse the call made on the field.

That drew even louder howls of disbelief. Some coaches, including Miami's Joe Philbin and Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis, tried to restore some calm by instructing players not to speak publicly on the issue.

Fines against two coaches for incidents involving the replacements were handed out Wednesday.

New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick was docked \$50,000 for trying to grab an official's arm Sunday to ask for an explanation of a call after his team lost at Baltimore. And Washington offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan was tagged for \$25,000 for what the league called "abuse of officials" in the Redskins' loss to Cincinnati on Sunday. Two other coaches, Denver's John Fox and assistant Jack Del Rio, were fined Monday for incidents involving the replacements the previous week.

"I accept the discipline and I apologize for the incident," Belichick said.

Players were in no mood for apologies from anyone.

"I'll probably get in trouble for this, but you have to have competent people," Carolina receiver Steve Smith said. "And if you're incompetent, get them out of there."

Added Rams quarterback Sam Bradford: "I just don't think it's fair to the fans, I don't think it's fair to us as players to go out there and have to deal with that week in and week out. I really hope that they're as close as they say they are."

They were. Finally.

sportsmanlike conduct for berating officials in the final seconds of the Redskins' 38-31 loss. He also confronted an official in a stadium tunnel after the game.

"Any time you do what he did you're going to get fined, and that's the nature of the game," Mike Shanahan said. "If you don't abide by the rules, you're going to pay a penalty and usually after a guy pays 25 grand, they usually learn very quickly."

Also, the NFL said Baltimore Ravens coach John Harbaugh won't be fined for making contact with a game official during Sunday's 31-30 win over New England. Ray Anderson, the NFL's vice president of football operations, said Harbaugh did not violate the rule regarding abuse of officials.

On Monday, the league fined Broncos coach John Fox \$30,000 and defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio \$25,000 for berating officials during a loss to Atlanta on Sept. 17.

McIlroy the 'marked man' of this Ryder Cup



MEDINAH, Ill. (AP)—Rory McIlroy has gone from being a rookie in the Ryder Cup to a marked man at Medinah.

McIlroy is the first European in nearly 20 years to go into the Ryder Cup as the No. 1 player in the world, although the star power of this 23-year-old from Northern Ireland is defined by much more than a computer ranking. He already has won two majors, with a record score in the U.S. Open last year at Congressional and a record margin at the PGA Championship last month at Kiawah Island.

His four wins this year are the most of anyone in the world, all against the strongest fields.

So it was no surprise when Jim Furyk referred to Boy Wonder as the "present day Tiger Woods" and a "marked man" at this Ryder Cup. That's the role Woods played for so many years in these matches when he dominated golf. There was a feeling among Europeans that beating Woods was worth more than one point because of the emotional lift it gave the rest of the team.

McIlroy doesn't see it that way. "This week I'm not the No. 1 player in the world," he said Wednesday. "I'm one person in a 12-man team, and that's it. It's a team effort. There's 12 guys all striving toward the same goal. I'm just part of that."

But even in this team

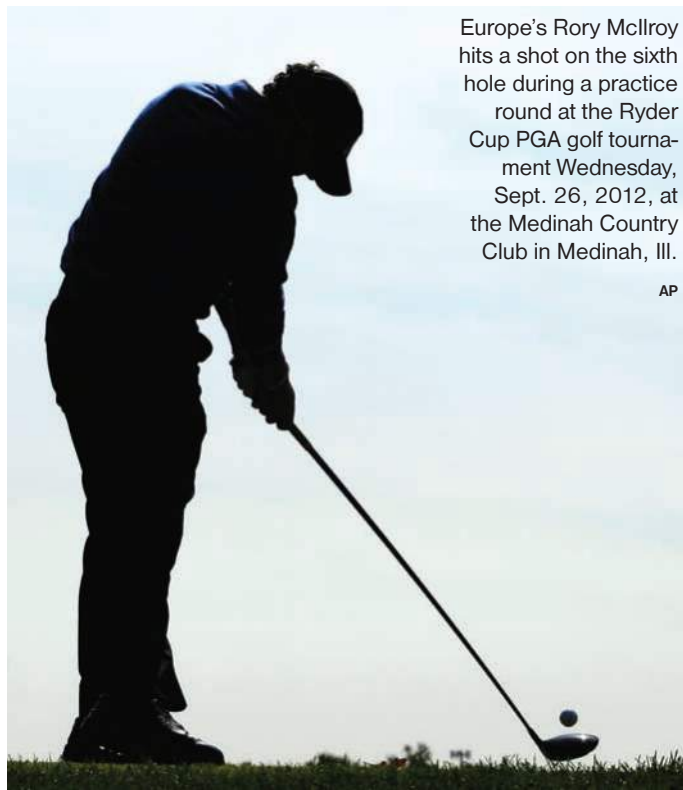
competition, it's easy to get wrapped in a single star, as it was for Woods.

There's only one way to keep score in the Ryder Cup, though it's tempting to make individuals accountable. Even when Woods was at his best, he still could only deliver a maximum of five points if he played every match. He never came close, and didn't even produce a winning record until his fifth Ryder Cup.

"I don't have a number. I don't have a total," McIlroy said. "I think with the U.S. playing here at home, I think they are the favorites. It's a very strong team. So we know we have got to go out there and play very, very well to have a chance. So if I play on Friday morning, I just want to get my point and then take it from there."

Wednesday brought the Ryder Cup one day closer to the start of matches that are growing in anticipation. Both teams look strong on paper, with all 24 players among the top 35 in the world. The Americans are loaded with experience behind Woods, Furyk and Phil Mickelson. Europe has only one Ryder Cup rookie, Nicolas Collaerts, and has the experience when it comes to winning. It has captured the cup six of the last eight times.

And while captains Davis Love III and Jose Maria Olazabal have preached civility and respect throughout the week, leave



Europe's Rory McIlroy hits a shot on the sixth hole during a practice round at the Ryder Cup PGA golf tournament Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, at the Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill.

AP

it to Ian Poulter to set the record straight on how the intensity can change when the first tee shot is struck Friday morning.

"It's not that we don't like each other," the Englishman said. "We are all good friends, both sides of the pond. But there's something about Ryder Cup which kind of intrigues me, how you can be great mates with somebody, but boy, do you want to kill them in Ryder Cup."

Poulter is not alone. Among the four American rookies is Brandt Snedeker, coming off an \$11.44 million payday for win-

ning the Tour Championship and the FedEx Cup.

"I'm very, very competitive," Snedeker said. "People don't get that, because I'm polite. But I tee it up on Friday here—tee it up against anybody—I'm going to try to beat their brains in as bad as I can."

Love brought the first dose of tears to Medinah when talking about the time spent Tuesday night at a team dinner, when he showed a video of past captains and spoke of the camaraderie in the team room. Then, he dressed his team in bright red pants for

a practice session of foursomes, keeping together the same partnerships he had the previous day. Olazabal mixed up his team ever so slightly, with Luke Donald and Sergio Garcia together. They are 4-0 in foursomes.

Both teams played only nine holes, trying to conserve energy for the most dynamic three days in golf. Even for such a short practice sessions, fans poured into Medinah and set a tone for the noise level, chanting, "USA! USA!" just for players leaving the practice range.

McIlroy, for all his ability, is so unfailingly polite and respectful that everyone likes him. Woods calls him "such a great kid." The gallery adores him. Perhaps for the first time in his career, he might not get a lot of love from the other side of the ropes.

"I expect it to be loud. I expect them to cheer for them," McIlroy said. "Hopefully, I won't get heckled, but if I do, then you've just got to stay calm and be focused on the golf and just get on with it."

He could not think of a time when he has heard it from a heckler.

"But just because of my hair," McIlroy said, touching his curly brown locks. "Nothing too insulting."

As for the notion that he has the biggest target on the back of his European uniform? McIlroy says that's nothing more than a compliment. Love doesn't buy

into the idea that beating McIlroy is any better than beating a team that features Francesco Molinari or Martin Kaymer. The captain has wondered if a loss by any of his top players would be a boost for Europe, "but I hadn't really looked at it from their side."

"I don't know if that's worth scratching my head over," Love said. "I didn't go to bed until 2:30 already thinking about my team. If I had to think about their team, I wouldn't get any sleep, because they're as strong as we are."

Steve Stricker sees it differently.

He has become Woods' favorite partner over the last three years. They went undefeated in the Presidents Cup at Harding Park in 2009, and were 2-1 as a partnership at Wales in the last Ryder Cup. Stricker has noticed an increase in emotion when playing against Woods, and he believes it will be the same way for McIlroy.

"When Tiger was at the top of his game and No. 1 in the world for all those weeks, he was a marked man," Stricker said. "Rory is the guy that's playing the best golf in the world right now, and I agree that he's a guy we all want to beat. ... Whoever it may be, the No. 1 player in the world, playing the best golf in the world, we're going to want to beat that player no matter who it is. And it so happens to be Rory."

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Wushin puts Playboy win under protest

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Playboy escaped with a controversial 78-76 win over Wushin Express in the DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court, but the latter put the results of the second game under protest.

Wushin's protest stems from a crucial call in the last 1.9 seconds of the match with Playboy ahead by only a deuce, 78-76, after Rocyl Ritual canned a triple. Playboy's Frank Macahito then picked up the ball and with both his feet inside the court, threw the leather to a teammate.

Referee Jojo Garon, who was at the bottom of the basket, first called the violation, but Dado Vistal overruled the former's decision and handed possession back to Playboy. A frustrated Wushin crew then just let Playboy make the throw-in and later put the game under protest.

Wushin contended that the

ball was live after the field goal was made and instead of going out of bounds for the throw-in, Macahito was inside the court and rushed an inbound play, throwing the ball to Mike Palacios. Vistal, however, argued that there was a dead ball and the referee (Garon) on top of the play should have handed the leather to Playboy for the inbound play.

To shed light on the contested call, *Saipan Tribune* sought the opinion of Elias Rangamar, vice president of Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, which is the local governing body of the sport and uses FIBA rules. Rangamar said after a field goal is made and there is no violation (foul or errors) or any interruption (time out or time expired) after the shot, a player can make the automatic inbound. FIBA rules on throw-in procedure (FIBA Official Basketball Rules 2012, Article 17, Section 2.7, page 20) also states "following a successful field goal or a successful last or only free throw, any player



Playboy's Bart Demapan, center, is hemmed in by Wushin Express' Dick Tibayan, left, and Jun Patawaran during the third quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

SONICS

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Agape Torchbearers (0-3).

The Saints faced off against LD Prime last night and today's double feature starts with Hi-5 taking on Rollers 1 at 5:30pm followed by Ol'Aces versus the Torchbearers at 6:45pm.

Ichitaro Faisao started off with a hot hands from the tip off and drummed out 11 points in the first quarter that helped Proa take a 19-9 lead.

Teammates Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz and Frank Met-

tao chipped in a couple of baskets in the opening frame and then added another 4 markers in the second quarter.

But without the help of Faisao, Sonics hit back in the second quarter and pulled to within a basket at halftime, 27-29, as Jimmy Tudela and John Paul Villanueva teamed up for a dozen markers.

After the break, Faisao and Mettao teamed up for 14 points in the third quarter that bested the 3 buckets apiece of Sonics' Tudela and Adrian Palacios as the former maintained the upper hand, 47-45, heading into the fi-

nal period.

Proa appeared unsteady since the latter half of the third period and the depth of the Sonics bench began to show through.

As Proa was limited to just two baskets in the first four minutes of crunch time, Sonics' Nevim Salem stepped up and helped push the team forward with Tudela and a big 3-pointer by Paul Mariano giving the Sonics a 56-49 advantage with just over six minutes left in regulation.

After that Ezra Caro led a host of others with 6 points that gave the reigning champs a 68-

56 lead with two minutes left to play and they went on to coast to the win.

Tudela led the Sonics with 21 points, while Faisao did all he could and finished with a game-high 30 points in the loss.

Sonics 72 – Tudela 21, Villanueva 10, Caro 10, Palacios 8, Deguzman 6, Salem 6, Mariano 3, Alegre 2, Aranda 2, Javier 2, Del Rosario 2.

Marianas Resort Proa 62 – Faisao 30, Mettao 16, Diaz 12, Sanarez 2, Manalili 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-19, 27-29, 43-45, 72-62.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 28-25, 43-37, 57-55.

Second Game

UCC 66 – Williams 18, Abrams 12, Lebria 11, Ito 10, Samson 6, Canedo 5, Alegre 4.

Kiss My Pass 54 – Jeralyn Castillo 23, Jeraldine Castillo 20, Ito 4, Pablo 3, Mendoza 2, Lizardo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-19, 34-26, 52-37, 66-54.

UCC

From Page 32

the eventual champions broke away, leading by as much as 19. UCC had a 15-7 scoring binge in the second canto with Denise Samson coming off the bench and contributing 6, while the Castillo sisters accounted for all the points of Kiss My Pass in that period.

In the third, Kiss My Pass was scoreless in the first 6:30, while UCC nailed 18 with Williams making 7 of them. UCC led at 45-26, before Jeraldine Castillo ended Kiss My Pass' drought with a triple.

The third period ended with UCC still comfortably ahead, 52-37, and though Kiss My Pass cut the deficit to as low as 9 in the closing minute of the fourth, the latter ran out of time to overhaul the lead.

Williams top-scored for UCC with her 18 points and though no official record on assists was taken during the game, she had a lot, making drop passes to Abrams, Alegre, and Samson. Abrams chipped in 12, Lebria added 11,

and Ito earned 10 markers from her stop-and-pop shots.

Jeralyn Castillo led all scorers with her 23 points, while Jeraldine logged 20, and the siblings were the only two Kiss My Pass players to nail more than two field goals for their team.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, IDK Who edged Ichiban, 57-55.

Negahr Rastguay anchored IDK Who's offense with her 21

points, while Keolani Rios and Angela Iriarte fired 12 each. Shaina Santiago paced IDK Who with her 15 markers.

First Game

IDK Who 57 – Rastguay 21, Rios 12, Arboliras 12, Iriarte 4, Atalig 4, Diaz 2.

Ichiban 55 – Santiago 15, Santiago 11, Ocampo 7, C. Lizama 7, Pena 6, Gatchalian 5, Echavez 4.

Tanzawa chipped in one, putting their squad in second place in the team standings. Paire dropped to third place with its 1-0-1 card.

BOYS U18 Tan Holdings 4, MPU-1 3

Tan Holdings broke into the win column after drawing MP United-2 in Week 1, following a close victory over MP United-1 last Saturday at the Oleai pitch.

Tanapon Unsa had back-to-back goals in the second half to lift Tan Holdings to its first win. Jeff Chan put Tan Holdings in the board with his goal

MATANSA

From Page 32

win after blanking Shirley's.

MP United, which clobbered Tan Holdings in Week 1, 14-0, drew two goals each from Scott Kim, Daniel, and John Taisacan to rout Shirley's (0-0-2). Also scoring for MP United were Amir Abes, Dakota Hall, and John Diego Masga.

Matansa 3, Paire 0

The debuting Matansa duplicated MP United's feat after shutting out Paire in the second game.

Sean Perez drained twin goals for Matansa (1-0-0), while Ryu

of the non-scoring team shall take the throw-in at any place behind that team's endline. This is also applicable after an official hands or places the ball at the disposal of the player taking the throw-in after a time-out or after any interruption of the game, following a successful field goal or a successful last or only free throw."

Meanwhile, league organizers were scheduled to meet last night to decide on Wushin's protest.

The results of the Wushin-Playboy tiff are crucial as both teams are gunning for playoff berths in Pool A. Playboy holds a 3-2 card, while Wushin has a 2-3 card, pending the final resolution on the crucial game. San Antonio (4-1), Zhaila's (5-2), and KFC Taco Bell (5-3) are the current Top 3 placers in Pool A and only the Top 4 squads will advance to the playoffs. MBI (4-2) and Blue (2-2) are also in the playoff hunt.

Meanwhile, in Pool B Gualo Rai boosted its playoff chances

after beating LD Prime in the first game, 96-82.

Jun Estolas scored 31 points to improve Gualo Rai's record to 4-3 and put the team to a share of fourth place with QQ Rent A Car.

First Game

Gualo Rai 96 – Estolas 31, Diaz 15, Jose 14, Mallari 9, Lauron 6, Lagado 3, Morales 2.

LD Prime 82 – Capalad 21, Dela Rama 20, Teegeyo 15, Banatasa 6, Hernaez 6, Magtuloy 4, S. Quemado 2, K. Quemado 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-21, 46-45, 71-66, 96-82.

Second Game

Playboy 78 – Demapan 25, Palacios 17, Manangan 15, Macahito 10, Barrios 8, Gonzales 3.

Wushin Express 76 – Ritual 29, Devero 20, Patawaran 8, Tobias 6, Ebuen 5, Tibayan 4, Villasan 2, Herrera 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-17, 39-37, 61-52, 78-76.

JP CENTRE

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First Game

Shirley's Coffee Shop 75 – Dela Rosa 20, Usi 18, Sedillo 15, Escalada 6, Yap 6, Nicdao 2, Laxa 2.

Kanoa Resort 70 – Manglona 18, Sablan 17, Pablo 13, Cruz 6, Benavente 6, Nunez 2, De Leon 2, Guerrero 2, David 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-22, 43-34, 58-50, 73-70.

Second Game

CTSI 62 – Jinang 20, Lizama 17, Salazar 7, Mendiola 6, Al-

cantara 2, Piteg 2, Echavez 2, Sakuma 1.

POI 55 – Tenepere 13, Sablan 11, Mejia 8, Anier 8, Bongaling 7, Pena 4, Goode 3.

Scoring by quarters: 10-18, 36-29, 45-45, 62-55.

Third Game

JP Centre 79 – De la Torre 17, Angeles 16, Moran 11, Rabago 11, Cadauan 8, Sutherland 6, Ong 6, Valdes 3, Regis 1.

Fiesta Resort 74 – Esdrelon 29, Galag 25, Aloka 7, Quizon 4, Villamena 4, Plata 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-23, 44-44, 61-62, 79-74.

MASAMI

From Page 32

loved it since then.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I get to play and at the same time have fun with my teammates, who I consider as my family. I enjoy the feeling of urgency in the game. There is energy rush every game.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: Getting into the U10 National Team in 2006, being se-

lected to the Best 9 of the spring season, and being the captain of an awesome team.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: If you really want something you won't give up until you achieve it.

"Masami has shown full commitment to the team. She attends every practice and always plays with heart. She has great punts and always encourages her teammates"—**Masami's coach Raymond Zapanta**

KENNETH

From Page 32

once my friends joined and I made new friends, football became fun for me.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I love to play football because I am able to make friends. I love the competition and I like to travel. With football, I get all of these.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: My greatest achievement

would be beating Macau. That was probably the best game I've ever played.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Play and love the game.

"Ken is smart and has the ability to learn techniques and tactics quickly. He can understand and perform well his duties both as a leader and a player. He is very strong and tough on the field, but has the kindest heart off the field."—**Kenneth's coach Jershin Angeles**

All set for ROP 13: Destiny! tonight

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TRENCH TECH Pure-bred Promotions' Rites Of Passage 13 Destiny! is set to go down tonight at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

A total of 12 mixed martial arts bouts and four K-1 kickboxing exhibitions are tentatively listed on the fight card, which overall includes 11 debut appearances.

ROP 13: Destiny! banners what is expected to be an electric main event between Trench Tech's Ning "Bo-Slice" Cepeda (4-3) and France's Ferid "The Hurricane" Khedder (18-7 with two draws) of Ground-Fu fight team in a 175-180-lb catch weight bout preceded by a pair of regional title brawls.

Cepeda and Khedder as well as featherweight title contenders, Fasi "Quikdraw" Jesse (9-4) and current champion Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig (4-6), of Guam's Countershot MMA team, have been wanting to get at each other for many months,



Cepeda



Khedder

but their previous dates were prolonged due to injuries sustained by Cepeda and Wusstig.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech's bantamweight champ, Mark "The Dark" Nuique (8-1), is looking to bounce back from his first-ever loss, and is in a must-win position as his local title is on the line against Zalaka's Jacob "One Blow" Ilo (1-5).

Marianas Elite's Derrick "El-Peligro" Rangamar (3-12), meanwhile, will take on Trench Tech's Shane "Pika-Boo" Alvarez (7-1) in a featherweight rematch from the very first title brawl, which went the distance.

In addition, four bantamweight matches (135 lbs) will be sprinkled in the mix, which features Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga (3-0) against Zalaka's Joe Duenas (4-1); Trench Tech/Tiyan Tough Walkers' Roman "Boom" Alvarez (2-0) tangle with Josh "Oh My Gosh" Cruz (0-3); Lights Out Gym's Kyle Toves, of Guam, taking on Garry Ray, in a double debut; and Saipan independent fighter Ray "Faluwasch" Teregeyo (0-1) versus Lights Out Gym's Derrick Padrones (1-3).

Other MMA matchups include Marianas Elite's Vince

dependent fighter Leo Mendiola squaring off against Tavita independent Kevin Villagomez, at 120 lbs in a double debut.

The K-1 pairings include a featherweight match between Zeng Zung's Regino Mundo (4-1), of Tinian, and Zalaka first-timer Nick Jones at 145 lbs; Zalaka's Jordan Manglona (0-1) squaring off against Trench Tech newcomer Wini Roldan Jr., at 130lbs; Guam Muay Thai first-timer Kyle "300" Martin challenging Trench Tech's Renz

"The Intense" Benghit (1-0), at 140 lbs; and Trench Tech's Jomar "Dynamite" Danas clashing with Guam Muay Thai's Jared "The Spartan" Martin in a double debut, also at 140 lbs.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at Tha Trapp, Docomo Pacific, Boarderline, or at the door for \$20, general admission, or \$30 for VIP seating.

Contact Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez at 483-4MMA (4662) for more information.

Mascarinas tops Poseidon 8-ball tourney



R.J. Mascarinas went unscathed en route to winning the first-ever Poseidon's Bar and Grill Open Individual 8-Ball Tournament last Saturday at the Garapan watering hole and sports bar.

Mascarinas won his first three games to get the twice-to-beat incentive in the championship match opposite loser's bracket topnotcher Joseph Achas.

The veteran cue artist then didn't mess around in the finals and need only one game to hoist the weekly championship.

Mascarinas had the break but it was Achas who had the first shot of the table after the break.

Achas missed his first shot giving Mascarinas a chance back at the table. However, it was not until Mascarinas had only four balls left that he went on fire by sinking all four balls and winning the first-ever 8-ball tournament at Poseidon Bar and Grill.

Mascarinas started the evening on the right foot, dispatching Erwin Gomez, Juancho Mendoza, and Luis Fajardo in the elimination round.

Achas, meanwhile, beat Rico Montano, Clifford Hamoy, and Robert Sanciangco before losing to Mascarinas in the finals.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Poseidon's Bar and Grill Open Individual 8-Ball Tournament champion R.J. Mascarinas, second from left, is flanked by third placer Rolly Villanueva, left, and Poseidon representative Jun Lee, right. At extreme right is runner-up place Joseph Achas.

Rolly Villanueva, meanwhile, took third place after losing to Achas in the loser's bracket finals.

Mascarinas took home \$110 for winning the weekly tourney, while Achas and Villanueva earned \$50 and \$30, respectively.

Other pool players that took part in the tourney were Fred Robeigo, Chester Cuento, Darrel Salas, Bryan Mark Nelvis, Jerry Soriano, Rowell Mariano, Rico Montano, Phil Kalen, and Mike Benavente.

Poseidon's Bar and Grill will be holding Saipan's First

"King of the Hill" 8-Ball Championship this coming Saturday with major sponsors involved that evening.

It will be a race-to-two games on the winning side with double-elimination format. Saipan top pool shooters are invited to join this Saturday's match at Poseidon's Bar.

This event will be held every quarter of the year. Billiards Congress of America rules and safety play apply. Sign up begins at 8pm and game begins at 8:30pm. For reservation, contact Poseidon's Bar at 233-2007. (PR)

JP Centre edges Fiesta Resort

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



JP Centre slipped past defending champion Fiesta Resort & Spa, 79-74, in the third game in the 2012 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Jershwin Angeles made back-to-back fastbreak layups, Rowell Cadauan drilled an insurance free throw, and Ferdie de la Torre canned a buzzer-beating jumper to lift JP Centre to a 2-1 record and hand Fiesta its third loss in as many games.

Fiesta had the lead for the last time at the 74-72 count after Elmer Esdreton went 2-for-2 from the stripe, with 1:34 left on the clock. Teams traded errors in the ensuing plays and Fiesta also missed a couple of shots and when JP Centre got the defensive rebounds, Angeles waited for the outlet and escaped with two fastbreak layups against Esdreton.

Ahead by two, 76-74, JP Centre got possession back when Roland Galag was caught stepping on the sideline after an inbound play, 23.4 seconds remaining on the clock. Fiesta then gave up a foul, sending Cadauan to the line. He made his first charity and missed the second and de la Torre tapped the ball out in the rebound play with Dino Valdez picking it up and dishing it off back to the former, who drained the right baseline jumper at the buzzer.

Shirley's 73, Kanoa 70

The first game of the weekend



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
JP Centre's John March Ong, center, drives and draws a foul on Fiesta's Roland Galag during the fourth quarter of their game in the Tan Holdings caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

was also a close one with Shirley's Coffee Shop outclassing Kanoa.

Rommel Usi scored 5 of Shirley's last 7 points, including a crucial three in the homestretch. He finished with 18 points, just 2 markers behind Shirley's top-scorer Erick Dela Rosa.

Ryan Manglona paced Kanoa with his 18 points, while Leonad Sablan added 17.

Shirley's held Kanoa to 12 points in the second canto, turning an 18-22 deficit to a 43-34 halftime advantage. Kanoa played catch up since then and failed to steal the win, as Usi and Dela Rosa were there to save Shirley's, which is still un-

beaten in three games.

CTSI 62, POI 55

CTSI is also undefeated after three matches, following the 7-point win over POI.

Jack Lizama logged 9 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter to keep CTSI's perfect record and deny POI entry to the win column. POI (0-3) forced a deadlock at the end of the third, 45-all, but Lizama took over in the fourth to deny the former's upset bid.

Besides Lizama, Ariel Jinang also tallied twin digits for CTSI with his 20 markers. Ramsa Teneperere and Mitch Sablan had 13 and 11 points, respectively, for POI.

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Marchitti Challenge this Sunday



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bikers head to the parking lot of PauPau Beach to finish a local race held last month. This Sunday, PauPau Beach will also be the start/finish line for the Marchitti Challenge.



All is set for the Marchitti Challenge, an MTB and road bike race that will be held this Sunday.

Registration will start at 5:45am, while the race will begin at 7am. Entrance fee is only \$10.

The weekend event will feature four courses and will all

start and end at the parking lot of PauPau Beach.

The MTB long course will bring bikers to Banzai Cliff, Banzai Trail, Santa Clause Lane, Autobahn Trail, Bird Island, road to Suicide Cliff up to the top of Kimikaze Trail, back to Autobahn Trail, Santa Clauss Lane, Banzai Traill, and then to PauPau.

For the MTB short course, bikers will pass the first five trails and then proceed to Grotto before returning to PauPau.

The road bike long course will have a different route as from PauPau, riders will head right to Mobil Station and then go to Banzai, Bird Island, Grotto, Suicide Cliff, back to Banzai, and then to the start/finish line.

For the road bike short course, bikers will head the same direction as the long course, but they will not go to Suicide Cliff.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in each course, while raffles prizes will also be given away at the end of the race. Raffle tickers are for sale for \$1 each.

The weekend event is supported by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Gold's Gym, Bike Pro, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, Powerade, Megabyte, Safety First, Brabu Pharmacy, and Saipan Sea Ventures.

For more information, contact Susan Marchitti at 989-6755 or email at susan.darkstar@gmail.com. (Roselyn Monroyo)



Braun homers,
Brewers beat
Reds, 8-1

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Saipan Tribune Sports



NFL reaches
tentative
agreement
with refs

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

UCC rules Kanoa women's caging



UCC's Lily Williams, center, dribbles past Kiss My Pass' Angie Ito, left, and Jeraldine Castillo during their title game in the Kanoa women's caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

UCC clinched the championship in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Women's Fall Basketball League after downing Kiss My Pass in a winner-take-all finale, 66-54, last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Lily Williams, Rachel Abrams, Kaylani Lebría, and Kayla Ito, who were part of UCC's starting five joining Madeleine Alegre, played a solid game in the finals to fend off the combined effort of sisters Jeralyn and Jeralyn Castillo. The four UCC starters all scored in double digits and teamed up for 51 points against the 43 of the Castillo siblings.

The Castillo sisters heated up early, giving Kiss My Pass a 10-2 lead. However, Williams did a great job quarterbacking for UCC and the rest of the team recovered in the last half of the first period to even up at the match after 10 minutes of play, 19-all.

Then the second and third quarters became a UCC show and

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Matansa wins; Shirley's draws MP United

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa won its debut in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Fall League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, while Shirley's FC and MP United settled for a draw to remain tied for the lead in the girls U15 division.

Matansa faced Paire (0-0-2 win-draw-loss record) in its first game of the season and eked out a 2-1 victory. Maile Aldrich scored one goal for Matansa, which got the winning goal in the second half off a Paire error. Paire's lone goal was courtesy of Kayleen Salle in the first half.

In the second game, MP United



A Shirley's FC striker, center, is sandwiched by two MP United defenders during their game in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA fall league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ed and Shirley's, which won its debut two weeks ago, both scored two goals to end their Week 2 match in a draw. Marielle Gariguez canned a pair for the spring champion Shirley's FC, while Savannah Delos Santos and Jan-Nasia Travilla had one each for MP United.

After Week 2, Shirley's and MP United are in a deadlock for the lead as they have 4 points apiece, just one point ahead of Matansa. Tan Holding's FC (0-0-1) drew a bye last Saturday.

BOYS U15 MP United 9, Shirley's 0

In the first game in last Friday at the Oleai Sport Complex Field, MP United had another lopsided

See MATANSA on Page 30

NMIFA YOUTH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Name: **Kenneth Vincent Domingo**
Age Group: **U18**
Team: **Tan Holdings FC**
Position: **Center Back**
Jersey No.: **#2**
Years of Playing Experience: **8 years**
Village: **Chalan Kanoa**
School: **Marianas High School**
Grade: **11**
Favorite Player or Team: **FC Barcelona's Gerard Pique**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: When I first played I wasn't very interested, but

See KENNETH on Page 30



Name: **Masami Sato**
Age Group: **U15**
Team: **MP United FC**
Position: **Goalkeeper**
Jersey No.: **#27**
Years of Playing Experience: **8 years**
Village: **Oleai**
School: **Marianas Baptist Academy**
Grade: **10**
Favorite Player or Team: **Nadeshiko**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: A friend introduced me to the sport when I was 7, and I

See MASAMI on Page 30



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Sonics' Jack Aranda stops, pops, and drops a short-range jumper against Mariana Resort-Proa in their Rotary caging U20 matchup last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sonics snap Proa win streak in U20

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Defending champion Sonics chased down Mariana Resort-Proa with a 29-point explosion in the fourth quarter and won their Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League U20 division matchup,

72-62, last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

As a result, Sonics and Rollers Basketball Club's Rollers 2 are now the only two undefeated teams left in the field and lead Proa (3-1), RBC's Rollers 1 (1-1), Hi-5 (1-1), Chalan Kanoa Saints (1-1), LD Prime (1-2), Oleai Ol'Aces (0-2), and RBC's

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